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HALIFAX • MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2009 metro

Celebrity Buzz

Rimes' husband files for divorce

pg 30



Local

Writer finds inspiration at the airport

pg 4



HRM weathers storm

PHILIP CROUCHER
philip.croucher@metronews.ca

Haligonians should be waking up to a winter wonderland this morning.

Forecast to be the most significant snowstorm so far this season, the flakes began falling yesterday in the Halifax Regional Municipality by mid-afternoon and were to continue to the early morning hours.

In total, roughly 15 centimetres were forecasted for HRM by Environment Canada, with about 10 cm on the ground by mid-evening.

Outside HRM, Yarmouth and Shelburne counties had 15 cm on the ground by 6:30 p.m., with at least another five forecasted.

There were numerous flight delays at Halifax Stanfield International Airport yesterday due to the storm, along with several cancellations.

"The current weather conditions are impacting a lot of flights," said Ashley Barnes, a spokeswoman for the airport authority.

The airport's runways were being cleared constantly, she added.

Both Halifax Regional Police and Halifax RCMP had a quiet night as far as accidents go as most motorists were staying off the snow-covered roads.

"I'm happy to report and happy to say ... we don't have many accidents at all," said HRP Staff Sgt. Sean Auld, who estimated they responded to only a handful of collisions, none of which were serious.

Nova Scotia Power crews were also enjoying a quiet night, with no serious outages reported.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Actress died of natural causes: Official

L.A. Brittany Murphy, the actress who got her start in Clueless and rose to stardom in 8 Mile before her movie roles declined in recent years, died yesterday in Los Angeles of what appeared to be natural causes, an L.A. County coroner's official said. She was 32.



Brittany Murphy

Murphy was pronounced dead at 10:04 a.m. at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, a hospital spokeswoman said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
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Local pg 3



Cops honour fallen officer

On the web

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Rainmen Driving the hoop



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Halifax forward Jevohn Shepherd attempts a shot during the first half of yesterday's Premier Basketball League exhibition game at the Metro Centre. The Rainmen beat the Quebec Kebs 108-90 and host the Vermont Frost Heaves tonight at 7. Story, page 23.

Tickets keep on piling up

PARKING BAN The tickets just keep on coming.

A total of 1,267 people in Halifax Regional Municipality woke up to an unpleasant surprise on their windshields last week as HRM continued to slap parking tickets on vehicles left on the street overnight.

Despite the outrage of several downtown Halifax councillors, parking officials issued several hundred tickets each night between Dec. 14 and 17. At $50 a ticket, that's $63,350 worth of parking fines in just the first four days of the overnight ban.

On Tuesday, Coun. Sue Uteck (South End-Northwest Arm) called the ban "a tax grab on behalf of HRM," and urged parking enforcement officials to "show a bit of common sense."

MONIQUE MUISE/METRO HALIFAX

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SCANLIFE

Local



Anonymous donor gifts patients with van

In the spirit of giving over the holidays, an anonymous donation of a new van was given Friday for patients living at Emerald Hall, a unit of the Nova Scotia Hospital in Dartmouth. The donation was made to the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia by a donor "who has a long-standing relationship with staff and patients at Emerald Hall," a release said Friday. "This van will be our lifeline to the community," Jackie Clark, health services manager at Emerald Hall, said in the release.

METRO HALIFAX

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 2009 Festival of Media Awards

Cops seek suspects after assault at McDonald's

CRIME Halifax Regional Police are looking for at least one suspect after police say a security guard was assaulted in a McDonald's restaurant early yesterday morning.

Police say they were called to the restaurant at 144 Main St. just after 2 a.m. in response to a complaint that several males were causing a disturbance.

The men, who police say were between 18 and 21, had reportedly been asked to leave by a 24-year-old security guard. In response, police say at least one member of the group punched and kicked the guard, eventually grabbing his baton and attacking him with it.

The guard was not seriously injured.

According to police, the suspects also damaged two windows before fleeing in a white Nissan 240 with a temporary permit.

The main attacker is described by police as a white male, five feet, nine inches tall and 175 pounds with dirty blond hair and an orange and brown coat.

METRO HALIFAX

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Police remember colleague

Const. Tony Carlisle killed in head-on collision last week

MONIQUE MUISE
monique.muise@metronews.ca

They came from just down the street and from as far away as Newfoundland and Labrador. With boots shined and dress uniforms perfectly pressed, they filed one by one into a Halifax church — some gazing silently ahead, others wiping tears from their eyes.

About 800 police officers and veterans from throughout the Atlantic provinces descended on St. Agnes Church on Saturday morning for the funeral of 41-year-old Const. Tony Carlisle, who died Tuesday in a head-on collision outside of Truro.

The entire Brookfield Elks junior B hockey team, which Carlisle helped to coach, also attended the service.

A former member of the Fredericton police force, Carlisle had worked with the Halifax Regional Police for 14 years. He leaves behind his wife, Jennifer, and children Mathieu, 17, Connor, 8, Megan, 5, and Spencer, 2.

Inside the church, HRP Chaplain Father Lloyd O'Neill spoke at length about the "deep, strong and lasting bond" formed between police officers, and said he was pleased to see so many had come to pay their respects.

In a moving eulogy, Insp. Brent Blackmore of the Fredericton Police Force told the congregation of a night when he and Carlisle were sideswiped in an intersection while on patrol.



MONIQUE MUISE/METRO HALIFAX

Members of the Halifax Regional Police and the Fredericton Police Force file into St. Agnes Church in Halifax for the funeral of Const. Tony Carlisle. About 800 officers turned out on Saturday to pay their respects to the father of four, who was killed in a head-on collision near Truro last week.



Tony Carlisle

"I lost consciousness, and when I came to, I told him to get out," said Blackmore, a longtime comrade and mentor to Carlisle. "He said, 'I'll stay as long as you're in the car.'"

At one point, Blackmore addressed his friend's children, seated in the front row.

"You brought so much joy into your father's life," he said, his voice breaking. "I know he will continue to watch over you."

Upon leaving the church, Carlisle's casket was given a final, formal salute as it passed through a sea of blue uniforms.

"I don't think I've seen this many officers at a service in a really long time," said HRP Chief Frank Beazley outside the church. "It tells you something about the person."

Donations

- Starting today, donations can be made at any Royal Bank branch to the Anthony Carlisle Memorial Trust Fund. The fund will help support the education of Carlisle's four children.

News in brief

GEESE The flock of geese that call Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth home are being taken to a facility in Seaforth that will offer greater shelter from winter weather, said a release issued by the municipality Saturday. The 12 geese will be cared for by volunteers with the Hope for Wildlife Society. HRM has made a donation to the society to cover the costs of caring for the geese. They will be returned to the pond in the spring.

ROBBERY An adult female and a young offender male are facing robbery charges and weapon offences after Halifax Regional Police say a Subway restaurant was held up on the 3000 block of Robie Street in Halifax yesterday.

METRO HALIFAX

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Take a short tour of D.C. as Americans dig themselves out from under a massive winter storm at **metronews.ca/world**

Immigration Guidy Mamann has the story of a young immigrant caught between two agencies at **metronews.ca/immigration**



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Assault charges laid after smoking incident

Halifax Regional Police say a woman was struck in the face on Friday after she asked a 43-year-old man in a bus shelter to stop smoking. The incident took place at the intersection of Cowie Hill and Herring Cove roads. Police say the man is being charged with assault. METRO HALIFAX

Biomass focus of green debate

ENERGY A debate is brewing between the Nova Scotia government, focus groups and environmentalists over the sustainability of harvesting trees and burning low-grade wood to meet the province's energy needs.

It is being recommended by a government-commissioned consultation team as a component of a provincewide renewable energy strategy, but some worry Nova Scotia doesn't have the necessary regulations in place to go ahead with any large-scale forest biomass projects.

Biomass

- This energy source has been used for heat and electricity in Europe for years and, on a small scale, in many Canadian provinces.

Prof. David Wheeler, dean of the faculty of management at Dalhousie University and leader of the consultation team, says biomass will help the province achieve its goal of producing 25 per cent of its electricity from renewable energy generation by 2015.

In an interim report released last week, he said biomass would generate about 15 per cent of the province's renewable energy in the short term, with large-scale and community wind farms making up the additional 85 per cent.

In an interview, Wheeler said biomass could make significant contributions economically, ecologically and socially to the province, provided it is done to the "highest possible standards."

But without knowing how the highest possible environmental standards will be defined, Jamie Simpson, a forester with Halifax's Ecology Action Centre, can't endorse large-scale biomass forestry as a renewable energy solution. THE CANADIAN PRESS



ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Local author Jon Tattrie works on a story at Halifax Stanfield International Airport in Enfield, N.S. Friday. Tattrie is using conversations with passengers and visitors over a two-day period to provide material for his story. The work in progress is displayed on a monitor and the final product will be put up on the airport website.

A writer's journey

Work of fiction includes real traveller's stories

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Halifax

Storyteller

- Jon Tattrie is the author of Black Snow, a novel of the Halifax Explosion, and a regular contributor to Metro.

The alarm clock exploded in the blackness Friday morning. I surged out of bed, grabbed my luggage, jumped in the car and raced to the airport.

Hurrying into the main lobby at Halifax Stanfield International Airport, I glanced at the clock — 6 a.m. Just in time. I took a seat, turned on my laptop and barely moved for the next 32 hours. It was time for Christmas at the Airport, a multi-day marathon of extreme writing.

I sat in the lobby, laptop plugged into a big monitor displaying my writing in real time, and wove real travellers' tales into a fictional short story about a man spending his 10th straight Christmas at the airport.

The first 12 hours were easy. I felt like Lucy in Peanuts: The Writer is In. People hurrying off to and from everywhere else in the world would stop and unload a tale, from husbands running off with salsa dancers to a 15-hour meditation in a Japanese monastery. I blended the facts into my fictional world and updated the story on my blog.

The first day lasted until 11 p.m. I was back at my desk shortly after 6 a.m. and finally ended as Dave's (the lead to the fictional story) flight departed at 2 p.m. But was he on it? Check out the final story at www.jontattrie.ca Wednesday afternoon.

In the end, 10 true tales punctuated my 5,600-word story. It was an extraordinary adventure, a chance to be the motionless part of a perpetual motion machine. The monitor acted as a spiritual X-ray, revealing glimpses of the souls passing through the airport.

Thirty-two hours after arriving, I left the airport in the same clothes, exhausted, in pain and with that drunken exuberance that marks the end of any journey. I may not have left Halifax, but I sure got somewhere.

News in brief

BLAZE A woman was forced from her mini-home after it caught on fire early yesterday morning. The blaze at 22 Allan Extension took place around 1 a.m. and is now under investigation by Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency Services. The Red Cross issued a release yesterday saying the woman is staying with relatives and that volunteers have assisted her with emergency winter clothing and food. METRO HALIFAX

Expert questions RCMP authority

SHOOTING A legal expert is questioning whether an RCMP officer who police say climbed through a window of a Cape Breton home and fatally shot a man had the legal authority to enter the residence.

Archie Kaiser, who teaches criminal law at Dalhousie University, said Friday police would need legal authorization from a judge or an existing body of law to go into a home if consent was not given.

He said it's difficult to determine what authority the officer had because the police have released few details about what happened when the officer went into John Simon's house in Wagmatcook First Nation last December and fired three shots.

"All of this comes down to the dwelling enjoying extraordinary security in our society and the police having no authority to enter unless there's a specific legal authorization to which they can point," he said.

"I don't yet know what, if any, legal authority the police are relying on."

The RCMP wouldn't comment on the specifics of the case and have refused to release a report into the matter, citing federal privacy legislation.

An RCMP spokeswoman did not immediately respond to questions Friday about the officer's legal authority to enter the home.

Police brief

- Halifax Regional Police briefed the Wagmatcook Band Council and Simon's family this week, telling them that RCMP responded to a 911 call last Dec. 8. There was a reported dispute at Simon's residence. Police and his family have stated he was drunk and possibly suicidal. Police have also said he had access to firearms.

Police announced earlier this week there would be no charges in the case following an investigation by Halifax Regional Police, who consulted with the Public Prosecution Service about possible charges.

The investigation determined the officer didn't violate any laws and shot Simon in self-defence.

A spokeswoman with the Public Prosecution Service said she couldn't reveal what advice the Crown gave the police about charges, saying it was privileged. A police spokesman also said he couldn't disclose what advice had been given. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Man slashed in altercation

INCIDENT Halifax Regional Police say a man was taken to hospital over the weekend with non-life threatening injuries after an early morning altercation with another man resulted in the 26-year-old victim receiving a slash wound to his face.

Police say the incident took place at about 4 a.m. on Saturday at the 1800 block of Barrington Street. The victim was taken to hospital in Halifax, while police say the suspect fled the scene.

Police describe the suspect as a white man in his mid 20s, between five-foot-11 and six feet, with short dark hair. He was also said to be sporting a white jacket. METRO HALIFAX

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Seniors evacuated
The Vista Heights seniors complex in Sydney was evacuated Friday afternoon after a fire broke out in a 10th floor apartment. CAPE BRETON POST

Too many residents

Overcrowding a problem at mental health facility: Report

Overcrowding at a Nova Scotia facility that cares for the mentally disabled created tension among its residents in the time that 22 cases of abuse were reported, a provincial government review has concluded.

Clothes dressers were jammed against beds in two-person rooms, forcing residents to drag them across the floor to open them, the review of the Riverview Residential Centre found.

In one unit in the 88-year-old building in Pictou County, 24 residents share four bathrooms.

"It was observed that bathroom areas on the units do not have doors, but a curtain hanging in the doorway," said the 43-page report released Friday.

Such conditions in the facility, which houses 96 people, made residents upset, the report said.

"Frustration clients often feel as a result of the crowded conditions and lack of quiet, private space is quite apparent," it said.

The review, which was launched in the spring, makes 93 recommendations for improved management and better living conditions. A $22-million renovation is already underway that will create three separate group homes on the grounds and provide single rooms for residents in the main building.

Within the past three years, there have been 13 cases of residents abusing other residents and nine cases of staff-on-resident abuse, according to the Department of Community Services.

The abuse includes an instance where a staff member jammed a bar of soap into a resident's mouth in July 2009 and another incident last year when a staff member sprayed water on a female resident's head until she was gasping for air.

There were also several documented cases of male residents grabbing the breasts of female residents over the past two years, and one case of a male resident being grabbed in the crotch by another male resident while he was in the bathroom this May.

Friday's report doesn't blame the abuse directly on the overcrowding. But it says it led to tensions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reviewing the report

- Ken Johnson, the vice-chairman of the board of directors at Riverview, said the board will review the report's findings and devise a plan to address its recommendations.

"We're going to try to put an action plan in place," he said, declining further comment.

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Teens arrested for stealing

Enfield RCMP arrested two female teens after police received a rash of calls from car owners in subdivisions in the Enfield area. RCMP recovered close to 32 items that were stolen from "unlocked vehicles," including iPods, a satellite radio and GPS units. METRO HALIFAX

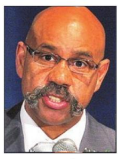
N.S.-Maine ferry service docked

The high-speed ferry service that links Nova Scotia to Maine was scuttled Friday, three days after the provincial government told Bay Ferries Ltd. it would stop subsidizing the money-losing operation.

Tourism operators were quick to denounce the shutdown of the ferry, known as the CAT, saying the move will hurt the province's economy well beyond the loss of 120 company jobs.

But the politician responsible for the file, Economic Development Minister Percy Paris, said the NDP government simply doesn't have the cash to keep the struggling business alive.

"The private company that was running the operation has said this is not viable, and I've agreed with them," Paris said in an interview. "That operation became more expensive over the years. ... We also recognize that we have to live within our means."


Percy Paris

The province has invested $20.2 million in the company since 2005, including $12 million for the 2009 fiscal year.

Paris said he didn't know how the loss of the CAT would affect tourism.

"I don't have a crystal ball. I don't want to get hung up on numbers."

But he suggested the province won't suffer that much, noting only one per cent of the Americans visiting Nova Scotia annually arrive on the CAT.

The 12-year-old ferry service operated seasonally from late May to October, travelling between Yarmouth and two communities in Maine — Portland and Bar Harbor.

Company president Mark MacDonald said the service couldn't survive without government help. "Our company is not in a position to absorb the significant financial loss we would experience in the absence of government support," he said in a statement. "I am sorry to be sharing this news just before the Christmas holidays."

More than 76,000 people used the service this year, a 10 per cent drop since 2008. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, annual traffic ranged from 100,000 to 150,000.

In Yarmouth, the port town where the ferry is based, Mayor Phil Mooney said he was blindsided by the announcement.

"This just came out of the blue." he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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CAPITAL HEALTH WISHES YOU A HEALTHY, HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON. To prepare for your health needs please note the following holiday service changes:

Most walk-in blood collection services are open for regular hours throughout the holidays but will close at noon on Christmas Eve. St. Margaret's Bay, Mt. Uniacke and Woodlawn Clinic blood collection centres are closed between December 24 and January 4.

Walk in X-ray services at all Capital Health hospitals, except Musquodoboit Valley Memorial and Eastern Shore Memorial hospitals, will be closed from noon on December 24 through January 4. For hours at Eastern Shore and Musquodoboit Valley, please call the hospitals directly.

Community Mental Health clinics will close at noon on December 24. They are open regular hours from December 29 to December 31, and closed on January 1.

If you have urgent blood collection, x-ray or mental health requirements, please contact your family doctor.

For more information on holiday hours, visit the Capital Health website at www.cdha.nshealth.ca

Capital Health reminds you to anticipate your health needs in advance of the holidays:

- Ensure your prescriptions are filled
- Do not over-exert yourself shoveling snow
- Enjoy holiday cheer in moderation
- If you have a chronic medical condition, anticipate your needs and have them taken care of in advance

Capital Health
www.cdha.nshealth.ca

Transport Canada seeks 1-year extention on N.S.-P.E.I. ferry deal

The five-year contract for the P.E.I.-Nova Scotia ferry service between the federal government and Northumberland Ferries Ltd. expires in March, but a Transport Canada spokesperson, Maryse Durette, said Friday it is working on extending the current contract for one more year.

The future of the service after March 2011 is currently up in the air. It's been suggested by the Liberal MP for the eastern end of P.E.I., Lawrence MacAulay, that Transport Canada plans to evaluate the ferry service during that year.

Transport Canada is denying that claim, however.

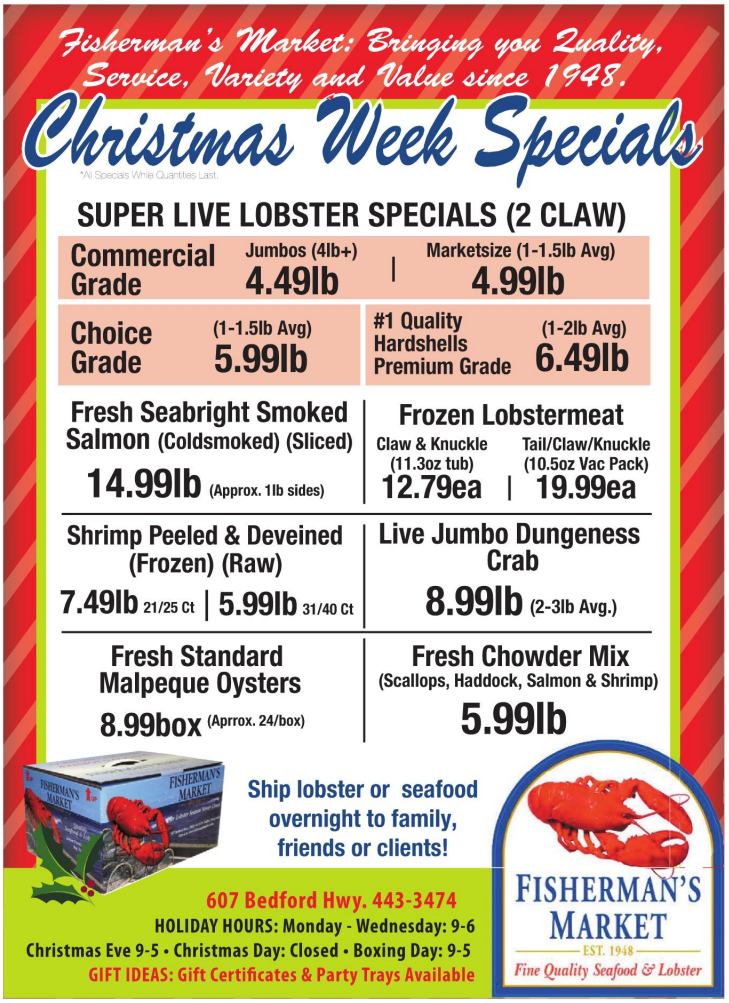
"The extension is not conditional on a formal policy review," she said.

"We assess the ferry services in the country as part of our normal management, and it could be done of this service."

Central Nova Scotia MP Peter MacKay was unavailable for comment Friday, but his spokesperson, Cindy MacInnis, said it's hoped a new, one-year contract with the company will be in place by April 1, 2010.

Tourism PEI has reported that ferry traffic has declined every year for the past five years.

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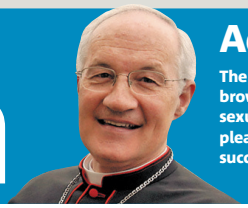
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Union taking legal action against health authorities

One of Saskatchewan's major health-care unions is taking its fight against the province's essential services legislation to the next level. The Service Employees International Union is taking legal action against four of the province's regional health authorities. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada



Ad taken out to explain sex assaults

The brother of Quebec's Roman Catholic archbishop, Cardinal Marc Ouellet, left, is raising eyebrows in la belle province after he took out a newspaper ad on the weekend to explain past sexual assaults involving minors, CBC News Online is reporting. In the ad, Paul Ouellet says he pleaded guilty to charges of sexual assault to end the ordeal, and claims his only mistake was succumbing to "advances" made by his two young victims. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Minister met Red Cross head

MacKay, O'Connor, Day talked with organization big wig

Three federal cabinet ministers and a senior government official met the head of the International Red Cross in the fall of 2006 as the humanitarian organization tried to focus Canada's attention on alleged abuses in Afghan prisons, The Canadian Press has learned.

Precisely what Jakob Kellenberger told Peter MacKay, Gordon O'Connor, Stockwell Day and Robert Greenhill, then the president of the Canadian International Development Agency, in the Sept. 26, 2006 meetings is blanketed by diplomatic secrecy.

MacKay was then Foreign Affairs minister, O'Connor was at Defence and Day was Public Safety minister overseeing Corrections Canada officers in Kandahar.

While the details of the meeting are secret, enough was said about Afghanistan to generate a report from MacKay's office a month later which flagged the Red Cross president's concerns.

The contents of the report, one of thousands of documents filed in the Military Police Complaints Commission investigation of torture allegations, are censored.

The email was titled: "Re: meeting with ICRC president re detention issues."

The Conservative government has insisted it never received direct warnings about possible Afghan torture of Canadian-transferred prisoners, although MacKay has conceded that general concerns were heard almost from the moment the government took office in early 2006.

The fact the Red Cross meetings took place raises further questions about what the federal government knew and the kind of warnings they received in those critical early months.

Officially, the Red Cross would only say the talks focused on topics including Afghanistan, humanitarian law in modern conflicts and co-operation with Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Red Cross

- The Red Cross is bound by international convention not to discuss with other countries what it saw in Afghan prisons. But it could drop broad hints, as officials did at two meetings with Canadian officials in Kandahar in May and June 2006.

Ontario South Korean carries flame



DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

World figure skating champion Kim Yu-Na of South Korea carries the Olympic flame in Hamilton, Ont., on Saturday.

News in brief

SIMPSONS An American philosophy professor who has edited a series of books about how such TV programs as The Simpsons has affected popular culture says many people may be concerned about nuclear power from watching the animated show. Movies about nuclear disasters such as Chernobyl and Three Mile Island have also added to negative publicity. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SCANLIFE

The Internet revolutionized how Canadians communicate in the past decade, and the coming decade will continue by taking the Net mobile. Scan this barcode for the article or go to metronews.ca/canada.

Value of public inquiries doubted

POLITICS With the country awash in calls for an arm's length probe into a variety of brewing scandals, questions are being raised about the efficacy of public inquiries.

While some inquiries are successful, others like the recently completed and widely criticized probe into an alleged pedophile ring in Cornwall, Ont., are long, expensive and poorly focused.

Some critics argue highly politicized inquiries solve more issues through negative publicity than through the recommendations they produce.

Others say they tarnish reputations, breach individual rights and aren't worth the damage they do to the public's faith in government institutions.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has faced daily attacks in the House of Commons for failing to probe allegations raised by diplomat Richard Colvin that Canada knowingly turned Afghan prisoners over to torture.

Quebec Premier Jean Charest's recent drop in opinion polls can partly be attributed to his steadfast refusal to allow an inquiry into allegations of corruption involving politicians, construction companies and the Italian Mafia.

Public inquiries have become so ubiquitous in Canada that when politicians refuse to call them, they're automatically accused of trying to hide something. But as opposition parties, the public and other stakeholders continue pressing the issue, there are some who sympathize, at least in part, with the leaders.

Toronto lawyer Clayton Ruby says inquiries are good at exposing evidence of wrongdoing, but that the recommendations made by these costly commissions ultimately end up on library shelves gathering dust.

"No one listens to the recommendations," he says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fewer women in workforce tied to having kids: Study

POLITICS A recently published study by the Quebec bureau of statistics indicates having children is related to a drop in a woman's participation in the workforce and an increase in part-time work.

The opposite was observed in men — in fact, more fathers were working than men without children.

The study suggests that despite the fact the rate of working women with children more than doubled over the last three decades — one-in-five mothers still chose part-time work.

And some 20 per cent of women with kids chose not to work at all.

Only four per cent of fathers did the same.

Researchers looked at workers between 25 and 44 with children 12 years and under.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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the Bay

Women's bookstore struggling to stay open

Nearly two decades after almost being destroyed in a firebombing, the Toronto Women's Bookstore is once again fighting for its survival. Earlier this week, the 36-year-old bookseller issued a desperate plea to its patrons, revealing that financially it was "in crisis" and needed funds urgently to stay open. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mousehunt trapping fans

There's a place where mice are welcome, where make-believe rodents eat make-believe cheese millions of times each day.

It's a land of serene meadows and mayhem, of calm clearings and dusty catacombs infested by clever little critters that may rob you blind or give you buckets of gold.

It's the magical world of Mousehunt and it exists in a spartan second-floor office in Oakville, Ont., where computer wizards and artists have developed a Facebook game played by nearly two million people around the world.

It's a tongue-in-cheek nation centred in the Town of Gnawnia, where players help the king rid the kingdom of mice in all shapes and sizes. The king even pays players an hourly wage in gold, which they use to buy cheese and traps, which will get them even more gold as they rise through the hunter ranks.

Some traps smash mice to smithereens. Others assault them with loud music or drop them into a bottomless grave. There are even humane traps that fling mice into a fantasy world of endless cheese.



JIM WILKES/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hitgrab CEO Joel Augé shows off some mice sent to its Oakville office by fans of its popular Facebook game Mousehunt.

You don't have to spend a dime to play Mousehunt, but players can buy online Super Brie, which attracts mice better than the ordinary cheddar, gouda or special blends that players can craft themselves.

"We're really in the business of selling pretend cheese," says Joel Augé, 31-year-old CEO of Hitgrab, the company that runs Mousehunt and a new game called Mythmonger.

"We're purveyors of fine digital cheese," he adds with a laugh.

It's worked so much better than the first Facebook foray he and partner Brian Freeman made in 2006, when they started an application to help brides organize wedding details, gifts and registrations.

"It failed miserably," he said, because it meant investing a lot of screen time.

The beauty of Mousehunt is that it takes just seconds to check your trap or sound the hunter's horn, which begins the search for mice. Even if you're not in the game, Facebook friends who play can help you nab mice while you're away.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MPs ask Harper to let ex-KGB agent stay

SANCTUARY A pair of B.C. politicians are appealing to Prime Minister Stephen Harper to act in the spirit of Christmas and allow to stay in Canada a former KGB agent who's taken sanctuary in a church.



Mikhail Lennikov

Mikhail Lennikov has lived in a Vancouver church since the government denied his application to stay in the country six months ago, though he's resided with his wife and son here for 12 years.

MPs Ujjal Dosanjh and Don Davies stood beside the man yesterday and made the public request to grant the 49-year-old permanent residence.

Lennikov has repeatedly said his work in the 1980s as a translator for the Soviet security agency was innocuous and commenced under pressure.

Last week, he produced 3,500 pages of documents from government departments in an attempt to show there is nothing to back up claims he is a national security threat.

Border officials have so far respected a convention not to enter the church and arrest Lennikov, who says he's unsure how long his stay will last.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

H1N1 flu crisis handled OK: Poll

Flu Outbreak

HEALTH Canadians think governments at all three levels have done an OK job of handling the H1N1 flu, though many also think the risk was exaggerated, a new poll suggests.

The Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey suggests that as concern is waning among Canadians, they are generally satisfied with how their governments responded to the pandemic.

Nearly three-quarters — or 73 per cent — of those who took part in the survey assessed Ottawa's performance as good or fair.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

LAWSUIT Court documents filed in Vancouver say a Quebec couple made "a deliberate choice" to ski out of bounds at a British Columbia ski resort last February and cannot blame the police and others for the tragic consequences. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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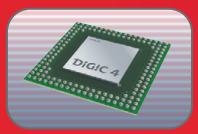
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Bus to Toronto crashes, 40 left stranded

One person was slightly injured and 40 passengers were stranded for several hours yesterday morning after their bus from New York City to Toronto crashed on Interstate 95 near Buffalo and the company, Megabus, didn't send a replacement. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Afghan troops tested

The harsh sound of the national anthem blasting over the Afghan countryside on the weekend left little doubt that a new battle for one of the most dangerous districts of southern Afghanistan had been joined in earnest.

As Canadian soldiers turned up the volume on the portable speaker and two American Kiowa helicopters twisted and turned overhead, Canadian-mentored Afghan soldiers swept through the village of Chahar Bagh.

Scores of freshly arrived U.S. troops — ultimately under Canadian command — provided firepower support.

Without subtlety, Operation Eagle had landed, marking several firsts.

The daylong sweep of Chahar Bagh was the first time the Canadian-mentored battalion of Afghan soldiers — known as 3rd Kandak — had planned and executed a major operation.

It was also the first time the 2-508 unit of the U.S. 82nd Airborne had deployed in Canada's new area of operations.

Arghandab is prized by the Taliban insurgency as a key entrance to Kandahar city just to the south.

Maj. Andrew Vivian, who heads the unit of Canadian mentors for 3rd Kandak, admitted feeling like a teacher whose students are about to take an important exam.

"Ultimately, we succeed when the ANA are out flourishing on their own," Vivian said."If they succeed, it means we have done our jobs."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Deadly earthquake strikes Africa
A strong earthquake destroyed several buildings in the African nation of Malawi yesterday, killing at least three people and injuring about 200, a government official said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World



Adams says father abused his family

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, left, says his late father was a man who emotionally, physically and sexually abused members of his family. Adams' disclosure comes as the president of the Irish Republican Army-linked party calls on his brother Liam to surrender to police to answer charges that he abused his daughter. Adams says that he has no recollection of being personally abused and did not go into detail about the allegations. Gerry Adams Sr., a former IRA prisoner, died in 2003. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel admits it harvested organs

Israel has admitted that in the 1990s, its forensic pathologists harvested organs from dead bodies, including Palestinians, without permission of their families.

The issue emerged with publication of an interview with the then-head of Israel's Abu Kabir forensic institute, Dr. Jehuda Hiss.

The interview was conducted in 2000 by an American academic, who released it because of a huge controversy last summer over an allegation by a Swedish newspaper that Israel was killing Palestinians in order to harvest their organs. Israel hotly denied the charge.

Parts of the interview were broadcast on Israel's Channel 2 TV over the weekend. In it, Hiss said, "We started to harvest corneas ... Whatever was done was highly informal. No permission was asked from the family."

The Channel 2 report said that in the 1990s, forensic specialists at Abu Kabir harvested skin, corneas, heart valves and bones from the bodies of Israeli soldiers, Israeli citizens, Palestinians and foreign workers, often without permission from relatives.

In a response to the TV report, the Israeli military confirmed that the practice took place. "This activity ended a decade ago and does not happen any longer," the military said in a statement quoted by Channel 2.

In the interview, Hiss described how his doctors would mask the removal of corneas from bodies. "We'd glue the eyelid shut," he said. "We wouldn't take corneas from families we knew would open the eyelids." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Settlers enraged by slowdown plan

- Israeli authorities could soon use special commando units, unmanned spy planes and cellphone-jamming equipment to enforce a moratorium on new settlement construction in the West Bank, military officials said yesterday, deepening a showdown between the government and Jewish settlers. Enraged settlers vowed to resist the plan, prompting Defence Minister Ehud Barak to warn they would face the full wrath of the military if they continue to flout the 10-month slowdown.

Pakistan **Heightened security**



MOHAMMAD SAJJAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pakistani women walk past a police officer in the troubled city of Peshawar yesterday. Authorities are taking extra security measures during the Shiite Muslim mourning month of Muharram, as security agencies fear an increased level of violence.

Leaders defend Copenhagen accord

Go Green

CLIMATE CHANGE China, the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, lauded yesterday the outcome of a historic UN climate conference that ended with a non-binding agreement that urges major polluters to make deeper emissions cuts — but does not require it.

Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said the international climate talks that brought more than 110 leaders together in Copenhagen produced "significant and positive" results.

The U.S. Obama administration yesterday also defended the agreement as a "great step forward" — despite widespread disappointment among environmentalists that the pact does not include mandatory targets that would draw sanctions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE

As international pressure mounts on the U.S. to curb its emissions, natural gas is emerging as an unlikely solution. Scan this barcode for the article or go to metronews.ca/world

News in brief

NEW YORK Bicyclists who planned to go topless to protest the removal of a Brooklyn bike lane switched gears Saturday, pinning plastic breasts to their jackets as they rolled into a snowstorm. Dozens of bikers joined a protest called the "Freedom Ride" to oppose the removal of the bike path. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Dozens killed in Nigerian crash
At least 55 people died and 38 others were injured when a truck carrying bags of fertilizer slammed into a market in central Nigeria. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bill almost there

U.S. Senate health-care legislation on track for passage

U.S. Senate Democrats pushed toward a critical vote to advance historic health-care reform legislation as outnumbered Republicans pledged a fight to the end against President Barack Obama's top domestic policy priority.

On Saturday, jubilant Senate Democrats announced they had locked in the 60th and decisive vote needed to overcome Republican stalling tactics. That came from moderate Democratic Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska, the last holdout in their caucus, who declared his support for revised legislation crafted by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

That put the bill firmly on a path for Christmas Eve passage.

To keep the process moving under Senate rules, Democrats will need to show 60 votes in a series of votes. The first — and most critical — test vote on a cloture motion to end debate on the bill was set for about a 1 a.m. debate.

Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona, Obama's opponent in last year's election, said there was probably nothing to keep Democrats from passing the bill by Christmas Eve.

Still, he said, Republicans would not relent in the battle for public opinion.

"We'll fight the good fight. We will fight until the last vote," said McCain. He said the political climate under Obama has become more partisan than ever.

A senior adviser to Obama criticized Republican senators yesterday for trying to halt final action, saying the American people deserve a vote.

"The Republican party has spent a month engaged in parliamentary manoeuvers and dilatory tactics to try and prevent a vote," David Axelrod, the Obama adviser, told ABC's This Week.

"It represents the culmination of a struggle begun by (President) Theodore Roosevelt nearly a century ago."
U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden in an editorial in yesterday's New York Times

Vice-President Joe Biden wrote in The New York Times yesterday that senators should support the bill because "it represents the culmination of a struggle begun by (President) Theodore Roosevelt nearly a century ago" to improve health care.

"I would vote yes for this bill certain that it includes the fundamental, essential change that opponents of reform have resisted for generations," he wrote.

The United States is the only wealthy industrialized nation that does not have universal health coverage. Health insurance in the U.S. is provided primarily by employers, but the ranks of the uninsured have been growing due to job losses in the recent recession.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather wreaking havoc in Europe

EUROPE Snowstorms and subfreezing temperatures have battered Europe, killing 29 people in Poland alone and wreaking havoc on air, train and car travellers from the Nordics to Italy on the last weekend before Christmas.

France's civil aviation authority ordered the cancellation of 40 per cent of flights out of Paris' Charles de Gaulle and Orly airports yesterday through mid-afternoon. Flights at Manchester Airport, Britain's busiest outside the London area, resumed after its only runway was briefly closed for snow clearance.

There was trouble on the railways too, with trains from Belgium to Italy delayed by icy, frozen tracks.

Eurostar trains through the Channel Tunnel weren't running Sunday as officials tried to pinpoint the problem that led four trains to come to a halt in the tunnel linking England and France, leaving passengers stranded for hours Saturday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Rare white rhinos relocated

Four of the world's last known eight northern white rhinos landed in Kenya yesterday and were transported to a game park where officials hope the endangered mammals will reproduce and save their subspecies. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Britain-France rail link closed for train probe

Breakdowns left thousands stuck in tunnel

The only rail link between Britain and France was closed indefinitely yesterday as Eurostar investigated a series of train breakdowns that trapped thousands of people in the Channel Tunnel for hours.

The stoppage meant that about 31,000 people in Britain, France and Belgium had to cancel trips planned on Eurostar on Saturday, and 26,000 more were expected to be affected yesterday.

Eurostar originally said that four of its trains were halted in the tunnel Friday evening. Yesterday the company said a fifth train had also been disabled in the tunnel before being towed to London. A sixth train broke down Friday, although outside the tunnel, 38 kilometres of which sits under the English Channel, Eurostar said.

Following unsuccessful attempts to move some passengers between London and Paris on Saturday evening, the company has cancelled all services "until we get to the bottom of what happened Friday night," Eurostar chief executive Richard Brown said. "We will not start services again until we are sure we can get them through safely," he told BBC television. "We want to understand what it was that caused this unprecedented breakdown."

He added that normal services might not return for days. The company said it had taken the precautionary step of cancelling all ticket sales until after Christmas.

Yesterday, the runway at Manchester Airport — Britain's busiest outside the London area — was closed for emergency snow clearance. On Friday, Gatwick Airport in London closed its runways for several hours for the same reason. Other regional airports such as Bristol in southwestern England and Belfast in Northern Ireland also were hit by delays and cancellations.

Many other travellers with bookings on British Airways had a close call. Last week, a court blocked a planned strike over the holidays by BA cabin crews, which would have disrupted the travel plans of around one million people.

Trapped Eurostar passengers spoke of languishing in the dark for up to 16 hours without adequate food, water or any clear idea of what was happening. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travel troubles

- The problem is the latest of several that British travellers have faced as the Christmas and New Year's holidays approach. Several airports have been affected by unusually heavy snowfalls.

Macau **Dubious anniversary**



KIN CHEUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hundreds of demonstrators march yesterday in Macau, during the 10th anniversary of the former Portuguese enclave's return to Chinese rule. Hundreds of demonstrators called for greater economic equity, an end to corruption and the right to elect the territory's leader, currently appointed by Beijing and rubber-stamped by a committee in Macau.

No problems with Palin, says McCain

POLITICS Sen. John McCain says he understands why Sarah Palin blacked out his name on a McCain campaign visor so she could avoid recognition while on vacation in Hawaii.

The Arizona Republican made the comments about his 2008 running mate on Fox News yesterday.

Palin blacked out McCain's name with a felt marker recently, saying she is fond of McCain but wanted to travel "incognito."

McCain said yesterday he has no problems with the blacked-out name. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Man says he put needles into toddler for revenge

CONFESSION A Rio man publicly confessed to pushing dozens of needles into his two-year-old stepson, saying yesterday he intended to kill the boy out of spite for his wife and didn't think he would be discovered.

In a jail cell interview aired on Globo television's Fantastico program, 30-year-old bricklayer Roberto Carlos Magalhaes said he mixed water with wine to dope the child before he and his lover held the boy down and stuck sewing needles into him.

"I did this two or three times a week during one month," Magalhaes said.

The boy was too drunk on the wine mixture to cry while he inserted the needles, he said, but felt the pain after the alcohol wore off.

"It was truly an unbearable suffering," said Magalhaes. "It was to get back at the boy's mother. I thought the needles would work their way through his body and kill the boy. It was a way to kill without anyone discovering."

But the pain led the toddler to complain to his mother, and on Dec. 10 she took him to a hospital where X-rays revealed about 30 needles lodged throughout his body.

The boy underwent a five-hour operation in the northeastern city of Salvador on Friday to remove four rusty needles that most threatened his life, near his heart and in his lungs.

Doctors said yesterday the child is doing well and will likely undergo two more surgeries to extract needles up to five centimetres long from his abdomen and spine.

Magalhaes and his lover Angelina Ribeiro dos Santos were both arrested, though no charges have yet been filed. They were taken to an undisclosed location for their own protection after a mob threw stones at the police station where they were being held. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ritual

- Along with Roberto Carlos Magalhaes, police believe his lover, Angelina Ribeiro dos Santos, was also seeking revenge on Magalhaes' wife.
- The bricklayer had told detectives that dos Santos would enter into trances and give him commands to insert the needles, police inspector Helder Fernandes Santana said.

Season's Greetings



Warmest wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season.

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Comment

Have a green holiday

Tips to stay healthy, save money and the environment

CleanBreak



Rochelle Owen

metronews.ca/cleanbreak

The holiday season is upon us. Here are a few sustainability tips for staying healthy, saving some money and the environment.

Sleep in if you can. As long as you are not up all night, you will be saving energy since nothing will be turned on and you will get beauty rest. Reading a book in bed can also be fairly conserving if you turn off all the other lights.

Turn down the heat and turn off lights and equipment before you leave work.

Carpool to events with a designated driver or take the bus. These transportation strategies are essential for safe driving when holiday drinks are plentiful. It also saves gas and emissions.

Go for a walk. This helps burn off calories, can help manage holiday stresses, and you can chit-chat with others.

Reduce or avoid shopping trips. There's nothing wrong with strategic shopping all at once, even at the last minute (I am hoping to get some fan mail). Think of all the gas that could be saved. You can also scale down on the holiday presents and expenses by pulling names from a hat for gift giving or giving handmade gifts.

"Turn down the heat and turn off lights and equipment before you leave work."

Eat leftovers. This is a good strategy all year round. You are saving energy the next day by not cooking.

Eat chocolate. Feel good by eating fair trade organic chocolate. Personally, I am a nicer person with a little chocolate.

Wrapping. I'm the comics and reusable bag wrapper type. I have been accused of being lazy or not as festive with these choices. My mother recently described to me an elaborate flower and ribbon she made from magazines, which sounds absolutely beautiful. My mother is amazing at cooking, crafts, painting, and other artistic pursuits. I fear my flower would look like a blob of crumpled paper, which would not improve my reputation. Know yourself and go with your skills. I did see very festive organic cloth bags at some stores that I plan on sourcing out.

Lights. LED holiday lights are a lot better now, in case you were an early adopter from 10 years ago and felt ripped off. There are more colours, softer whites, and better light dispersion. The price on an LED string has definitely come down and they use 80 to 90 per cent less energy than comparable incandescent strings.

Give. Food, hugs, smiles, these kinds of things. All good for the muscles and mind.

Rochelle Owen is director of sustainability at Dalhousie University. She has worked in the environment and sustainability field for 19 years; rochelle.owen@gmail.com.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Christmas – a lot of assembly required

HineSight



Anne Hines

metronews.ca/hinesight

Today, our final instalment on Prepping for the Holidays:

Sanity: Is it overrated?

Or, all I want for Christmas is a G-17A size 12 Allen key.

After the excitement of Christmas morning comes another traditional holiday event: Assembly Afternoon.

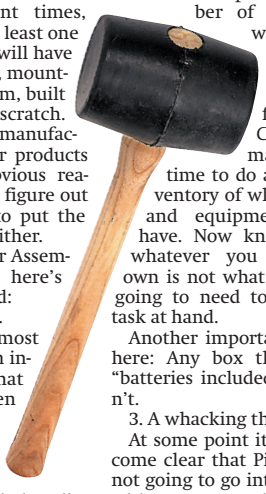
In olden days, Assembly Afternoon did not exist. A ball was a ball. A jump rope was a jump rope. And a quoit and skittle set was ... actually, I have no idea what that was. But the point is, it didn't need to be put together. You got your quoit and your skittle and you were good to go.

Now that we live in more convenient times, it's likely that at least one gift you receive will have to be assembled, mounted or, it may seem, built entirely from scratch. This is because manufacturers ship their products in parts for obvious reasons: They can't figure out how the heck to put the thing together either.

To be ready for Assembly Afternoon, here's what you'll need:

1. A translator.

These days most items come with instructions that have been thoughtfully translated into a wide variety of languages. These may include Klingon, Hobbit and British semaphore, but they will never, ever include whatever language you speak.



2. The home phone number of a hardware store owner. Before Christmas, take time to do a full inventory of what tools and equipment you have. Now know that whatever you already own is not what you are going to need to do the task at hand.

Another important note here: Any box that says "batteries included," doesn't.

3. A whacking thing.

At some point it will become clear that Piece C is not going to go into Slot A without some serious persuasion. Excellent whacking things I have used include Nutcracker dolls and that extra piece that didn't seem to fit anywhere. Tip: Do not use your spouse's new BlackBerry. Trust me on this one.

4. Assistance.

While most assembly efforts are one-person jobs, it's traditional to have someone on hand to provide helpful comments such as, "That's not how I'd do it," and "Too bad you have to do that or you could be having a drink like me." While it's not OK to use the whacking thing on this person, it is perfectly acceptable to give them a gift next year that comes in a ka-gillion pieces.

Wishing you all a happy holiday and joyous Assembly Afternoon!

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

Worth mentioning

Eco-friendly shopping may lead to bad habits: Study

Buying green may help save the planet, but a new study suggests it might also make you more prone to cheat, steal, and be selfish.

In a paper to be published in an upcoming issue of the journal Psychological Science, University of Toronto researchers Nina Mazar and Chen-Bo Zhong studied how students behaved after being given the option of purchasing environmentally friendly products, like organic yogurt or biodegradable laundry detergent, or conventional items.

They found students who chose green products were less likely to act altruistically afterwards than those who were simply exposed to green products.

The study, said Mazar, an assistant professor of marketing with the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management, builds on research into the idea of "moral regulation" — that people either consciously or unconsciously balance bad deeds with good ones.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Purchasing habits

- While the findings might deflate the self-righteous air of those who brag about bringing canvas bags to the grocery store, researcher Nina Mazar says it definitely shouldn't be seen as a condemnation of environmentally friendly purchasing habits.

We Know What You're Thinking



43% The percentage of Canadians who purchase gift cards and sometimes forget to purchase a greeting card to go with it.

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Workers awarded $100M in BP lawsuit

A federal jury Friday awarded more than $100 million US to 10 workers who claimed they were injured in 2007 when a toxic substance was released at BP PLC's Texas City plant. The jurors in Galveston, about 80 kilometres southeast of Houston, gave each contract worker $10 million in punitive damages. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

DOLLAR	N.GAS	OIL	TSX
US 93.81¢ (Friday's close)	US $5.78 (Friday's close)	US $74.42 (Friday's close)	11,463.40 (Friday's close)

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Market volatility expected this week

Stock markets are expected to remain volatile in the shortened trading week ahead of Christmas, as investors clean up their books before the start of the new year.

Motivation will come from turbulent commodity prices which proved especially unpredictable last week as the U.S. dollar bounced around in value. Traders will also be making last-minute trades to meet the tax-loss trading deadline for the year.

"There's a whole bunch of conflicted forces at work," said John Johnston, chief strategist at the Harbour Group at RBC Dominion Securities. "The U.S. economy is showing pretty decisive indications that it's in an economic recovery, but a very slow one."

Markets will operate on a regular schedule until Christmas Eve, when they close at 1 p.m. ET on both sides of the border and will reopen Boxing Day.

Economists and observers have predicted trading this month would be relatively muted compared with previous years partly because the TSX rallied in early November to a high for the year and since then many traders have taken time off for the holidays. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Motivation from commodities

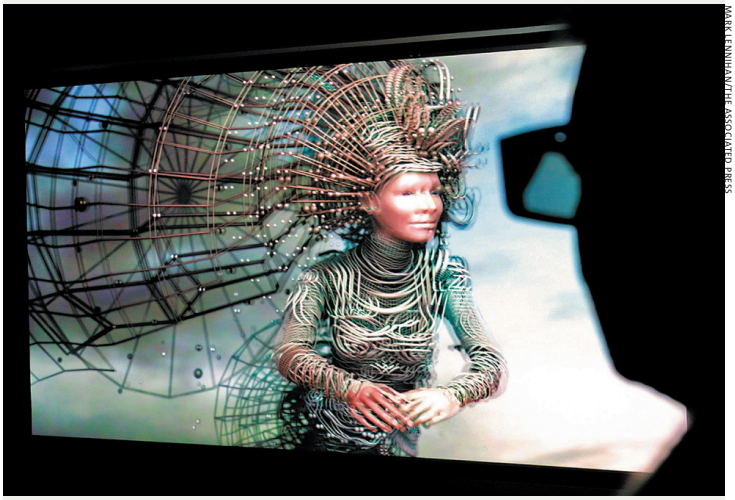
- Last week, the Iraqi government said that an oil well had been taken over by a group of armed Iranians, which sent the February crude contract up slightly in the final hours of trading. Shares in Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan lost six per cent of their value. And gold prices have also logged several sessions of turbulence over the past week.

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SCANLIFE

After ending a border dispute with Iran, Iraq's rebuilding oil industry moves toward developing a lucrative oilfield. Scan this barcode for the article or go to metronews.ca/world

New York **Larger than life**



MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A visitor to Stereo Exchange in New York over the weekend wears 3-D glasses to view a demonstration of Digital Projection's Titan 1080p 3D projector on a three-metre screen. The English company is marketing the 3D systems to high-end home users and the military.

Dutch carmaker makes new offer to buy Saab

AUTO In a final attempt to rescue Saab Automobile AB, Dutch automaker Spyker Cars submitted a new offer yesterday to buy the Swedish brand from General Motors Co.

Spyker said it has submitted a new 11-point proposal to GM, addressing the issues that made talks collapse earlier this week.

GM on Friday said it would wind down Saab because issues arose during the sales talks with Spyker that could not be resolved, and the window of time to complete a deal was small.

Spyker CEO Victor Muller said he hoped the new offer would make GM change its mind.

"We are very confident that our renewed offer will remove the impasse that was standing in the way of an agreement on Friday, and this would still allow us to conclude the deal prior to the expiry of the deadline originally set by GM of Dec. 31," he said in a statement.

Muller said the new offer removes a demand that a loan from the European Investment Bank to Saab be approved before the end of the year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Challenges are in BlackBerry's future: Analysts

TECH The BlackBerry is facing more competition and its entry into China will have challenges, analysts say. After gaining more than 10 per cent on Friday and beating profit forecasts, Research In Motion faced questions about if it can maintain such growth.

Pacific Crest analyst James Faucette believes the 2010 financial year could be RIM's earnings peak, while PC Magazine's Sascha Segan said BlackBerrys "definitely need a facelift" to appeal to more buyers. THE CANADIAN PRESS





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- CD Player with MP3 Playback & iPod® Audio Input Jack
- Driver Information Center
- Automatic Headlamps
- Variable Intermittent Wipers
- Plus More!

52 MPG▼



HWY: 5.4L/100KM • 52MPG▼
CITY: 8.0L/100KM • 35MPG

CASH PURCHASE PRICE
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Freight not included

INCLUDES **$1,850-** CASH CREDIT
INCLUDES $1000 HOLIDAY BONUS

OR OWN IT! **$99*** BI-WEEKLY
with $0 down payment and purchase financing for 84 months

OR STEP UP TO THE 2010 COBALT LT

$15,909†
Freight not included
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COMPARE, AND YOU WILL KNOW

	2010 CHEVROLET COBALT LT	2010 HYUNDAI ELANTRA L SEDAN	2010 HONDA CIVIC DX SEDAN
CASH PURCHASE PRICE	$15,909**	$15,849**	$15,990**
HEAD CURTAIN SIDE IMPACT AIRBAGS	Standard	Not Available	Standard
AIR CONDITIONING	Standard	Optional	Optional
16" ALUMINUM WHEELS	Standard	15" Steel	15" Steel
REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY	Standard	Not Available	Not Available
POWER DOOR LOCKS	Standard	Standard	Not Available
HP / TORQUE	155/150	138/136	140/128
POWERTRAIN WARRANTY	5-year/160,000 km	5-year/100,000 km	5-year/100,000 km

With More than $2,000‡‡ in additional features than Hyundai or Honda

‡‡ Value of additional features based on dealer pricing. Vehicle comparison is based on 2010 Cobalt LT (1AL69/1AL37 1SA), 2010 Elantra L Sedan (D4T) and 2010 Civic DX Sedan (FA1529EX). ** Vehicle specification and purchase price according to the information available on the manufacturer's website at time of printing.

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HWY: 5.7L/100KM • 50MPG▼
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CHEVROLET

For the latest information, visit us at gm.ca, drop by your local Chevrolet dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. ■ $9,000 manufacturer-to-dealer delivery credit available on 2009 Chevrolet Silverado HD pickups (tax exclusive) for cash customers only. $850/$2,350/$1,350 for 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Coupe or Sedan R7A/Cobalt LT Coupe or Sedan R7A/Aveo5 LS R7A includes cash credit plus $1,000 Holiday Bonus. Credit will impact the effective APR for finance customers. See your GM dealer for details. ‡$1,000 holiday cash bonus is a manufacturer-to-dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) and is reflected in offers in this advertisement. Offer available on all 2009 and 2010 Chevrolet, Pontiac, Buick, GMC and HUMMER models and excluding all Saturn and SAAB models. Camaro, Express/Savana, Corvette ZR1 and Medium Duty Trucks. † Offers apply to the cash purchase prices of 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Coupe or Sedan R7A/Cobalt LT Coupe or Sedan R7A/Aveo5 LS R7A new or demonstrator models and apply only to retail customers in the Maritimes. Freight ($1,350/$1,350) not included. Cash purchase price reflects discounts or other incentives that are available when consumers opt for a cash purchase offer. By selecting lease or finance offers consumers are foregoing such incentives which may result in a higher effective interest rate. * Financing available on approved credit only from TD Canada Trust; ask your dealer for additional information. Based on finance rates of 4.09%/4.09%/4.09% for 84/84/84 months for 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Coupe or Sedan R7A/Cobalt LT Coupe or Sedan R7A/Aveo5 LS R7A. Down payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: $10,000 at 4.09%/4.09%/4.09% APR, the monthly payment is $137.10/$137.10/$137.10 for 84/84/84 months. Cost of borrowing is $1,516.40/$1,516.40/$1,516.40, total obligation $11,516.40/$11,516.40/$11,516.40. Freight of $1,350/$1,350/$1,350 included for bi-weekly payment. Bi-weekly payment based on a purchase price of $15,639/$17,259/$13,499 with $0/$0/$0 down payment. ‡ Financing available on approved credit only from GMAC; ask your dealer for additional information. Based on finance rates of 0%/0%/0% up to 36/36/36 months for 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Coupe or Sedan R7A/Cobalt LT Coupe or Sedan R7A/Aveo5 LS R7A. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: $10,000 at 0%/0%/0% APR, the monthly payment is $277.78/$277.78/$277.78 for 36/36/36 months. Cost of borrowing is $0/$0/$0, total obligation $10,000/$10,000/$10,000. This finance rate is not compatible with bi-weekly payments. ‡‡ Offers apply as indicated to the purchase of 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Coupe or Sedan R7A/Cobalt LT Coupe or Sedan R7A/Aveo5 LS R7A new or demonstrator models and applies only to retail customers in the Maritimes. Dealer order or trade may be necessary. License, insurance, registration, administration fees, tire warranty and handling (where applicable) and taxes not included. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited time offers which may not be combined with other offers and may change without notice. See your dealer(s) for conditions and details. ▼ Based on Natural Resources Canada's 2009 Fuel Consumption Guide Ratings for comparisons. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. Excludes other GM models. See dealer or gm.ca for additional details. ▲ GMCL will pay the first two months GMAC finance payments for finance terms up to 60 months only paid up to a maximum monthly finance payment of $400 (tax included). After applicable to equal monthly payments. Offer available to customers who finance through GMAC on select new 2009 and 2010 Chevrolet, GMC, Buick, Pontiac and HUMMER models with less than 4,000 km. Program applies to 2009 and 2010 models only; excludes demos, fleet, lease vehicles and medium duty trucks. Maximum damage allowed of $200. Vehicle usage fee and other restrictions apply. Not available with some other offers. Customer must take retail delivery by January 11, 2010. See dealer or gm.ca for additional details. 1 Available on approved TD Canada Trust purchase financing on terms of 84 months. The first three payments are offered at a maximum of $297 ($99 x 3) for the 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LS R7A, $327 ($109 x 3) for the 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LT R7A and $255 ($85 x 3) for the 2010 Chevrolet Aveo5 LS R7A. The customer will be responsible for making all payments (e.g., 182 bi-weekly payments over 84 months) to the bank; however, he/she will be paid the equivalent of the first three payments by the dealership. The dealership will issue a cheque in the customer's name for the equivalent of three bi-weekly payments. License, insurance, registration, administration fees, tire warranty and handling (where applicable) and taxes not included. Offer applies to vehicles delivered on or before January 11, 2010. Offer applies only to 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Coupe or Sedan R7A/Aveo5 LS R7A. 2 Offers in this advertisement include the cost of 4 winter tires (up to a value of $450). Tire brand availability may vary depending on dealerships. Tire order may be required. Installation and balancing not included. Tire duties are extra and payable at time of delivery. Offer applies to vehicles delivered on or before January 11, 2010. Offer applies only to 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Coupe or Sedan R7A/Aveo5 LS R7A.

American pika losing its home

Faced with global warming, many creatures will migrate to cooler latitudes — but the American pika can't do that because their habitat in North America is currently restricted to small, disconnected habitat 'islands' in numerous mountain ranges. **WWF**

Going Green



Give the Earth a gift

With only a few shopping days left, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation has launched a new e-gift available at tdfef.com/egift. One hundred per cent of every donation will support grassroots environment and wildlife projects across Canada. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

China trying out pig power

ANN-AËL DURAND
Metro World News

The inhabitants of Cao Tian Da, in the Chinese province of Yunnan, cook and heat their homes with pig excrement — an example of transition towards new energies encouraged by China.

The signs painted along the road state it clearly: Cao Tian Da is a "model village for renewable energy."

This 140-inhabitant hamlet, in the mountains of Yunnan, seems traditional, with red-clay houses, corn ears hung for drying, and chickens running in the courtyard. But in the streets, public lamps are equipped with solar panels.

On the roof, brand-new solar heaters are glittering, and on the whitewashed walls, crude paintings explain how to use the new energy: bio-gas, made from pig feces.



METRO WORLD NEWS

Pig feces is used to create bio-gas which powers these homes.

"It is very convenient," explains Wan Qin, in her new kitchen.

The young peasant opens a tap and activates a gas stove — much better than her old wood burning fireplace.

"Before, I had to collect firewood in the mountain, with my baby on my back. Now, I am relieved. We also have hot water with the heater."

Her electricity bill has been reduced by half, and the forest is preserved.

An important issue for these families: their village has been moved by the authorities for environmental reasons linked with deforestation.

The gas in Wan Qin kitchen is freely provided by an industrial pigsty, 1 km away.

The company, Hui Jian, strongly subsidized by the local authorities, keeps the excrement of its 2,000 pigs in big manure pits — 250 cubic metres per day, which ferment and produce methane.

Water supply in danger?

ERICK TAPIA
Metro World News



Kevin Wall

On Apr. 18 next year thousands of people across the world will run 6km — the average distance women and children walks to find water in drought-hit parts of Africa.

The Dow Live Earth Run for Water is the brainchild of Live Earth's CEO Kevin Wall and is aimed at raising awareness of what he believes is be the key global crisis, lack of drinking water. He spoke to Metro:

Q Is the planet's fresh water in danger?

A Well the planet is full of water but the reserve of drinkable water is actually getting smaller and more polluted.

If you go to the drought areas of Africa the rivers are dry.

Q Do you think that humanity will solve the water problem?

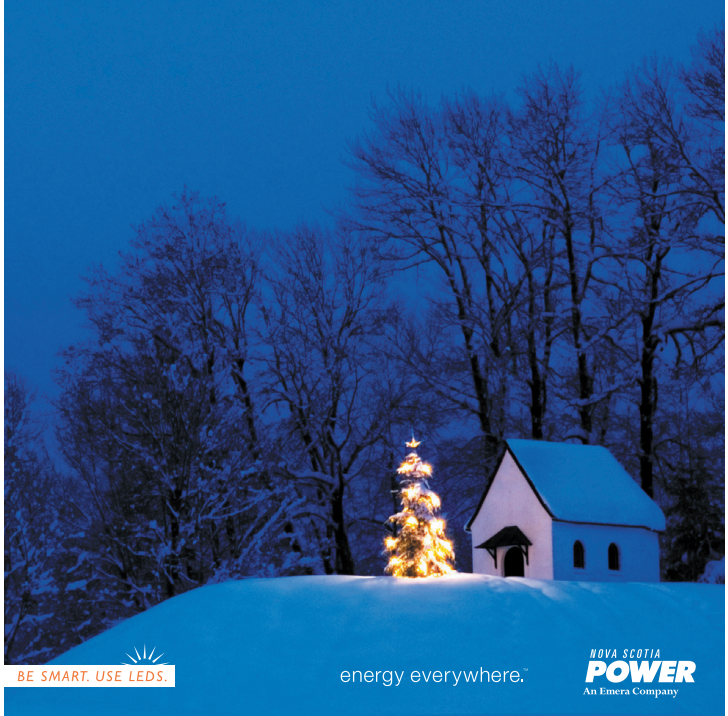
A It will take major corporations to change the way they do business and their water usage, it will take Governments to continue to push forward to find a better policy.

Q What sort of actions are being taken around the world?

A It is different in the parts of the world — in some parts it is activism, in others it means actually drilling water wells for communities.

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Lions win in OT

Travis Perry scored a minute into overtime to lift the Halifax Lions to a 5-4 overtime win over the Yarmouth Mariners in Maritime Junior A Hockey League play at the Forum yesterday. Dylan King added a goal and an assist for the Lions (12-12-2). METRO HALIFAX

Sports



Abeltshauser lifts Germany

Halifax Mooseheads defenceman Konrad Abeltshauser has helped Germany earn a promotion to next year's world junior championship. He had four assists and a tournament-best plus-9 at the Pool B world junior as Germany went 5-0. METRO HALIFAX

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Halifax Rainmen guard Tony Bennett shows off his pipes after scoring a basket during the first half of yesterday's Premier Basketball League exhibition game at the Metro Centre. Bennett scored 28 points to lead the Rainmen to a 108-90 win over the Quebec Kebs.

Rainmen off to good start

Team opens pre-season with pair of wins, draws big crowd

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The Halifax Rainmen are no doubt counting their blessings that Tony Bennett decided to return for another season.

The six-foot-one guard electrified Metro Centre crowds on the weekend as the Rainmen opened the Premier Basketball League pre-season with a pair of victories.

With a franchise-high crowd of 6,780 watching on Saturday, Bennett paced the Rainmen with 26 points and five assists in a 101-97 win over the Manchester Millrats. He was even better yesterday, piling up 28 points and nine helpers in a 108-90 win over the Quebec Kebs before 2,681.

"I'm glad I came back and I think I'm gonna be here for a couple of more years," said Bennett, who averaged a team-best 19.4 points in 12 games last season and eschewed lucrative contract offers in Europe to return to Halifax.

The 25-year-old had 16 points in the first quarter yesterday to set the tone early and the Rainmen didn't look back, leading by 10 after a quarter, 16 at the half and 20 after three.

The Kebs, relying mostly on just six players, couldn't mount a comeback in the fourth, despite a 31-point, 12-rebound effort from former Rainmen forward Cordell Jeanty.

Bennett, who calls his basketball career "a paid vacation," said he dedicated his summer to developing a better shot and he connected at a 61 per cent clip on the weekend.

But beyond his offensive contributions, the NCAA Division I product of Bradley has become a calming presence on a roster that currently features five full-fledged rookies.

"He's much more of a leader now," said head coach Les Berry. "He's taken the younger guys, helped them out, helped them understand the pro game. That's big."

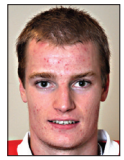
Centre Mark McCarroll and point guard Adris Deleon had 18 points apiece and Eric Crookshank added 16 points and 14 boards. Saturday's stars were Desmond Ferguson and Gary Ervin with 18 apiece and Gordon Malone with 14.

The Rainmen wrap up their pre-season today with a 7 p.m. tilt with the Vermont Frost Heaves. The Frost Heaves are scheduled to fly in at 11 a.m. barring weather delays.

Despite early struggles, Herd still in running

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The Halifax Mooseheads enter the QMJHL holiday break on pace for the worst season in franchise history, but the good news is, they're in striking distance of the playoffs.



Pascal Amyot

The Mooseheads, who wrapped up the first stage of their season on Friday with a 7-1 loss to the Saint John Sea Dogs at the Metro Centre, take a nine-day breather with an 8-26-3 record and 19 points, four points out of the playoffs.

Considering they started the season with just one win in 20 games and have righted the ship to go 7-8-2 since, the rebuilding club is actually feeling pretty good about itself.

"We know we can make it," said 19-year-old blueliner Pascal Amyot. "We believe in each other. Even though we had a terrible start, we've been pretty close to .500 (lately). If we keep it going, we're going to make the playoffs."

Halifax has nine players aged 17 and younger. The hope is the kids will make big strides in the second half.

"Sometimes it takes a little while for young players to get used to major junior," said Amyot. "After a couple of months they start to understand and they can improve a lot."

Halifax hosts the Moncton Wildcats on Dec. 27.

Mooseheads send affiliate player to Wildcats for pick in 2010 draft

The Halifax Mooseheads got in on the action as the QMJHL trade period opened on the weekend, dealing affiliate defenceman Alex MacDonald to the Moncton Wildcats.

The Mooseheads received a 12th-round pick in 2010 for the 18-year-old, who picked up an assist in five games this season before being reassigned to junior A Dieppe.

Other moves saw Dartmouth's Christian Morin moved from Val-d'Or to the league-leading Saint John Sea Dogs for Benjamin Lecomte, while Halifax's Bradley MacDonald went to P.E.I. from Victoriaville for Brandon Street.

Former Mooseheads forward Alexis Piette went from Lewiston to Chicoutimi as part of a four-player deal. MATTHEW WUEST/METRO HALIFAX

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Conrad finishes second

Dartmouth's Sarah Conrad finished second in the halfpipe at a Dew Tour stop in Breckenridge, Colo., on the weekend. Conrad, bound for the Olympics in February, had 89.0 points and was edged by Spain's Queralt Castellet. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Grieving Bengals fall short

NFL

Bengals 24 Chargers 27

AT

Nate Kaeding kicked a 52-yard field goal with three seconds left and the playoff-bound San Diego Chargers pulled out a dramatic 27-24 win over the grieving Cincinnati Bengals yesterday.

The winning kick came after Philip Rivers moved the Chargers 46 yards in 51 seconds with no timeouts and backup centre Dennis Norman snapping after Scott Mruckzkowski was injured.

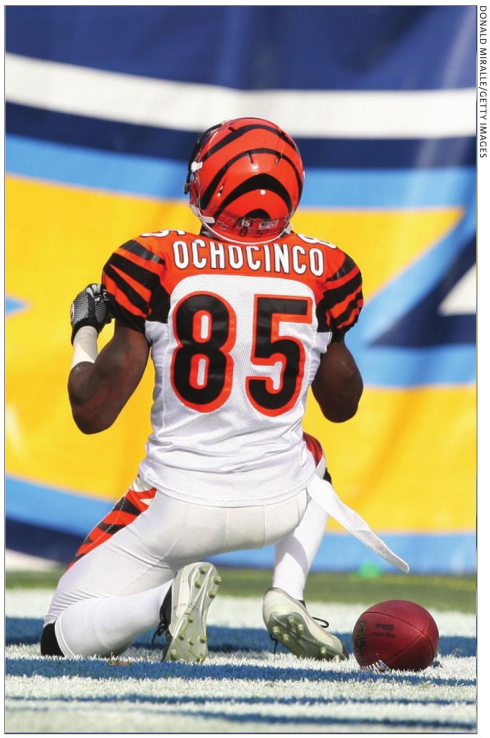
A few minutes after the final gun, the Chargers clinched their fourth straight AFC West title when Denver lost 20-19 to Oakland.

San Diego (11-3) won its ninth straight game and clinched a playoff spot before halftime because of other results. The Bolts improved to 17-0 in December dating to 2006.

The Bengals (9-5) failed for the second straight week to clinch the AFC North.

Cincinnati, playing three days after the death of receiver Chris Henry, had tied the game at 24 on Shayne Graham's 34-yard field goal with 54 seconds left.

The Bengals were lucky to get in their tying field goal.



DONALD MIRALLE/GETTY IMAGES

Chad Ochocinco of the Cincinnati Bengals kneels after scoring a touchdown against the San Diego Chargers yesterday.

Two plays earlier, Andre Caldwell caught a pass from Carson Palmer, was hit by Eric Weddle and then linebacker Tim Dobbins popped the ball out of his hands and it sailed back to the 45, where Palmer jumped on it.

The Bengals dedicated the rest of the season to Henry. He died Thursday, a day after falling out of the back of a pickup truck during what police described as a domestic dispute with his fianceé in Charlotte, N.C. Henry was on injured reserve and out for the season.

After Chad Ochocinco caught a 49-yard touchdown pass from Carson Palmer to give the Bengals a 10-7 lead early in the second quarter, the receiver got down on both knees and touched his heart with his right hand.

The Bengals wore decals with Henry's No. 15 on their helmets. Several Bengals fans brought signs remembering Henry, including a simple "RIP 15."

"It was a little empty-feeling," Ochocinco said. "It was bigger than football without him. Today I played with an extra set of hands, an extra set of legs and an extra heart."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Playoff picture

- San Diego, Arizona and Minnesota clinched division titles yesterday, while Philadelphia surged into the playoffs as at least a wild card.
- Green Bay's 37-36 defeat at Pittsburgh gave the Vikings (11-2 and playing at Carolina last night) the NFC North.
- The Cardinals (9-5) won the NFC West for the second successive year by beating Detroit 31-24, then seeing San Francisco lose at Philadelphia 27-13.
- The Eagles (10-4) moved into the post-season with that win.

NFL encourages players to donate their brains

The NFL is partnering with Boston University brain researchers who have been critical of the league's stance on concussions, The Associated Press learned yesterday.

The league now plans to encourage current and former NFL players to agree to donate their brains to the Boston University Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy, which has said it found links between repeated head trauma and brain damage in boxers, football players and, most recently, a former NHL player.

"It's huge that the NFL actively gets behind this research," said Robert Cantu, a co-director of the BU centre who has spoken negatively about the league in the past. "It forwards the research. It allows players to realize the NFL is concerned about the possibility that they could have this problem, and that the NFL is doing everything it can to find out about the risks and the preventive strategies that can be implemented."

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello told the AP yesterday that the league also is committed to giving $1 million US or more to the centre.

"It's huge that the NFL actively gets behind this research."
Robert Cantu, Boston University.

"The precise amount hasn't been determined," Aiello said.

"We will discuss it with them. It depends on their needs. We are committed to funding research" on brain injuries.

Robert Stern, an associate professor of neurology at the Boston University School of Medicine and one of Cantu's co-directors of the centre, said the group is pleased that the NFL is playing a role.

"Although we discussed with the NFL how they might facilitate players' participation in our research into the long-term effects of repetitive head trauma in athletes, we did not request financial support to avoid any real or perceived conflict of interest," Stern said in a statement issued yesterday. "Any financial support from the NFL would need to be free of any real or perceived conflict of interest." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brothers to compete in Masters

GOLF Francesco and Edoardo Molinari of Italy will finish the year in the top 50 in the world and become the first set of brothers in 10 years to compete in the same Masters.

The tournament sends out invites to the top 50 in the final world ranking of the year, which was finalized yesterday after the South African Open, the last official tournament of 2009.

Former Masters champion Mike Weir of Bright's Grove, Ont., will be extended an invitation.

Franceso Molinari finishes at No. 38, while Edoardo Molinari will be No. 48. The World Cup winners in China last month, they will be the first brothers at Augusta National since Jumbo and Joe Ozaki in 2000. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Chicago 3 Detroit 0
St. Louis at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS
Montreal 3 N.Y. Islanders 0
Ottawa 4 Minnesota 1
Toronto 2 Boston 0
Nashville 5 Calgary 3
Washington 4 Edmonton 2
Anaheim 4 Phoenix 2
Carolina 3 Florida 2
Colorado 5 Columbus 2
Dallas 4 Detroit 3
New Jersey 5 Atlanta 4
N.Y. Rangers 2 Philadelphia 1
Pittsburgh 2 Buffalo 1 (SO)

TODAY'S GAMES
Buffalo at Toronto
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Islanders
Florida at Philadelphia
N.Y. Rangers at Carolina
Montreal at Atlanta
Boston at Ottawa
New Jersey at Pittsburgh
Colorado at Minnesota
San Jose at Dallas
St. Louis at Edmonton
Columbus at Phoenix

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Toronto 98 New Orleans 92
Boston 122 Minnesota 104
L.A. Lakers 93 Detroit 81
Memphis 102 Denver 96
Portland 102 Miami 95
New York 98 Charlotte 94
Dallas 102 Cleveland 95

SATURDAY'S RESULTS
Chicago 101 Atlanta 98 (OT)
Houston 95 Oklahoma City 90
L.A. Clippers 112 Philadelphia 107 (OT)
L.A. Lakers 103 New Jersey 84
Orlando 92 Portland 83
Phoenix 121 Washington 95
San Antonio 100 Indiana 99
Sacramento 96 Milwaukee 95
Utah 110 Charlotte 102

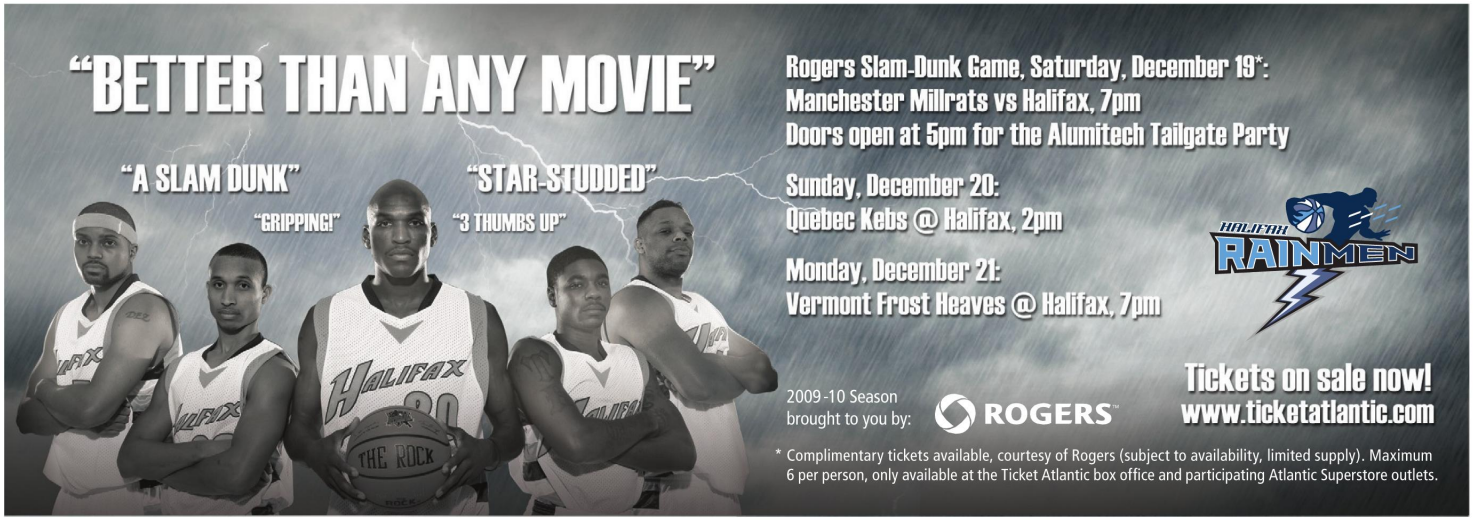
TODAY'S GAMES
Milwaukee at Indiana
Utah at Orlando
Sacramento at Chicago
L.A. Clippers at San Antonio
Cleveland at Phoenix

NFL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Tennessee 27 Miami 24 (OT)
Arizona 31 Detroit 24
Atlanta 10 N.Y. Jets 7
Houston 16 St. Louis 13
New England 17 Buffalo 10
Cleveland 41 Kansas City 34
Oakland 20 Denver 19
San Diego 27 Cincinnati 24
Baltimore 31 Chicago 7
Tampa Bay 24 Seattle 7
Pittsburgh 37 Green Bay 36
Philadelphia 27 San Francisco 13
Carolina 26 Minnesota 7

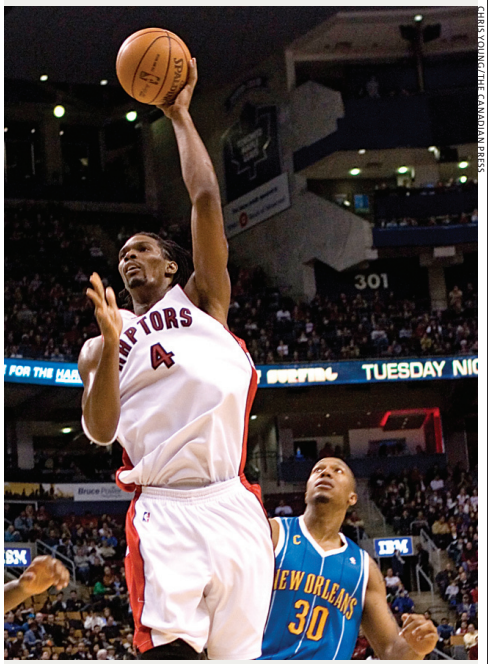
SATURDAY'S RESULTS
Dallas 24 New Orleans 17

TODAY'S GAME
N.Y. Giants at Washington



Good day for Swiss in super-G
Franzi Aufdenblatten posted her first World Cup victory yesterday, leading Nadia Styger in a Swiss 1-2 to win a super-G. Britt Janyk of Whistler, B.C., finished tied for 16th, Emily Brydon of Canmore, Alta., was 26th, and Shona Rubens, also of Canmore, placed 36th. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA Raptors beat Hornets


CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Raptors Chris Bosh scores as New Orleans Hornet David West looks on. Bosh had 25 points as the Raptors won 98-92 yesterday afternoon in Toronto.

Chelsea solidify Premiership lead by playing West Ham to a draw

SOCCER Frank Lampard drove home a twice retaken penalty against his former club as Chelsea came from behind to draw 1-1 at West Ham yesterday to move four points ahead at the top of the Premier League.

After Scott Parker blocked a header from Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic on the line, West Ham went ahead in the final minute of the first half. Ashley Cole brought down Jack Collison and Alessandro Diamanti drove home the penalty.

Chelsea equalized in the 61st minute after Matthew Upson was harshly judged to have brought down Daniel Sturridge even though the West Ham defender appeared to make contact with the ball.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

FORMULA ONE Italian organizers say a deal has been signed with Formula One chief Bernie Ecclestone to stage a Rome Grand Prix on the streets of Italy's capital. Course planner Maurizio Flammini told Sky Italia yesterday that an agreement with Ecclestone "has already been done and signed" but did not say when the first Rome GP might be held.

CRISP The Oakland Athletics are close to agreeing with free-agent outfielder Coco Crisp on a one-year contract with a club option for the 2011 season. A person with knowledge of the negotiations confirmed an impending deal on condition of anonymity because a formal announcement had not been made by the club.

NBA Dirk Nowitzki missed Dallas' game against Cleveland last night because of soreness in his elbow, where two teeth belonging to Houston's Carl Landry wound up following a collision a few nights before.

ITALY Samuel Eto'o scored an early goal to give Inter Milan a 1-0 win at home to Lazio yesterday and extend its Serie A lead to eight points going into the winter break. Also yesterday it was; AS Roma 2, Parma 0; Livorno 3, Sampdoria 1; Napoli 2, Chievo Verona 0; and Palermo 1, Siena 0.

PORTUGAL Javier Saviola scored as Benfica beat Porto 1-0 in the Portuguese "classico" yesterday, taking the Lisbon team to a share of the lead in the league standings. Also yesterday, Leiria beat Belenenses 1-0, Setubal beat Maritimo 3-2 and Nacional beat Academica 4-3.

SPAIN Tenerife and Atletico Madrid drew 1-1 in the Spanish league yesterday, with goals from Juan Francisco "Nino" Martinez and Jose Manuel Jurado. The result leaves Atletico 15th on 14 points. Tenerife is 14th with a point more.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Calendar lets female athletes express their hopes, dreams

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

When nine-year-old Nicole Maurer grows up, she wants to be an Olympian.

Yet in a country where children are constantly encouraged to follow their dreams, she's already been told to scrap that goal.

She says it's because she's a girl.

The Grade 5 student from Calgary is a ski jumper, and for right now, competing in that sport on the most prestigious stage in the world is restricted to men.

Which makes absolutely no sense to Nicole.

"When I jump, I'm better than most of the boys," she says, explaining she's already been training for four years. "It's not fair just because they're girls that they're not allowed in the Olympics."

That complaint has been the subject of a long court battle by a group of female international ski jumpers who argue it's unconstitutional to bar women. As the 2010 Games quickly approaches, their case remains in limbo.

Nicole's inequity propelled her and others to highlight it and similar cases of gender barriers in a new "Dreams for Women" calendar she helped create.

As excitement builds before the world visits Vancouver, the participating athletes — several who actually will be competing — are hoping to use Olympic fever to galvanize people to question the way things are.

Each participant made and submitted a postcard that's included in the calendar.

"I dream of a world where the only bruises women receive occur in friendly competition," says figure skater Ashley Wagner's postcard on domestic violence.

"I dream of a world where women are front page, not centrefolds," says Cathy Priestner-Allinger, Olympic medallist speed skater and Vancouver Olympic Committee vice-president, on the sexualization of female athletes.

How to buy

- To buy a $20 calendar, go to antigonemagazine.wordpress.com

Volleyball player and calendar participant Kirsten Manley-Casimir feels she faces extra pressures on the court. In international competitions, she's required to wear a very small bikini — rules laid down by the Federation Internationale de Volleyball.

Men are allowed to wear shorts.

"There's a reason that the men's event didn't sell out first at the Olympics. It was the women's event (that did)," said the Toronto woman, 34, whose postcard is in the calendar.

"You do fight against the tension between it being seen as a sexy sport rather than an athletic sport."

Gender representation in some areas of the Olympics is still sub-par, though it continues to improve.

Only two women hold senior executive spots on the eight-member Vancouver Olympic organizing committee, while five women sit on its 20-member board of directors, according to the most recently available stats from July 2008.

At the 2008 Beijing summer Games, 42 per cent of the 11,000 competing athletes were women — up from less than 26 per cent ten years earlier.

Amanda Reaume, who coordinated the calendar, said she hopes it becomes a relic of a different era.

"I really hope that this calendar ... will be the last year that women have not been included in ski jumping in the Games," said the 25-year-old, who is executive director of the Vancouver-based non-profit Antigone Foundation, an organization geared toward young women.

"Hopefully it will be a historical piece — 'Oh, remember that time, back in the day, when women weren't in ski jumping.'"

THE CANADIAN PRESS



'Bait laptop' program curbing computer thefts at SFU

Simon Fraser University is crediting a new program for reducing computer thefts at its Burnaby campus by over 30 per cent. Alarm-rigged laptops are placed around the campus library and are set off if picked up, alerting security personnel. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

New site for N.S. university

The University of King's College has a new-look website. The site describes the Halifax-based institution as a "tightly-knit and extraordinarily lively academic community." On the site, visitors will find testimonials from past students, recent Twitter posts, event listings and news headlines. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

A Santa suit dresses up a third career



There are few jobs that value a mature complexion, white beard and a somewhat stocky body type. But if you look the part, playing Santa like Bob McTavish does on a regular basis is a great job.

McTavish, 67, got his first gig as Santa five years ago when organizers of a Christmas party in Bala, near his home in Ontario's Muskoka region, needed someone last minute.

Word soon got around that McTavish "does Santa," and it took off from there.

This, of course, is not his first career. He started off in business, and worked in senior management for a various retail chains. Twenty years ago, he left corporate life and started up his own real estate brokerage for business clients.

Eight years ago, he moved from Toronto to Muskoka, renovated his dad's old cottage and was reconsidering his career options — the real estate business was slowing down — when the Santa work started.

"I was looking for something to take up the slack," says McTavish.

The jobs working parties and parades fit his schedule: it takes up much of the early winter while real estate gets busy in the spring.

In between, he swims, snowmobiles, travels and goes to the theatre.

Two years ago, he got a big break. One of the Santas at Santa's Village in Bracebridge passed away. McTavish now spends his summers there — and probably will for years to come.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Bob McTavish dons his Santa suit to entertain the crowds.

"I'm reasonably young. I know another fellow who's 86 and he's been doing it for 16 years. This is a long term position."

This year, McTavish began working in malls. "I'm developing my Santa business just like I developed my real estate business."

It's harder work than parties and parades: the days are long and often run late (McTavish likes to rise early so he's beat by 8 p.m.).

And, surprisingly, his business experience helps with his new job.

"I was trained in retail where I learned you have to treat the customer with incredible respect."

He often spoke in front of crowds for his job and he doesn't get stage fright.

At parties, he roams the room chatting with kids and adults, making sure everyone's happy. For parades (where he wears good quality long underwear), it's the most fun when he has a mike and can chat with the crowd.

At the village and at malls, it's all about one-on-one chats with kids, getting them to talk about what they want, what they're interested in, and getting into casual chats about cookies, Mrs. Claus and reindeer.

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Job title: Santa Claus
Salary: $250 to $500 a day or event
Education/training: There are a few Santa schools in North America, but he learned on the job.
Best Part of the Job: "Individual people, not always kids, who react with their eyes to you. You know someone is taking pleasure from what you're doing."
Worst Part of the Job: "Families who push kids beyond the point they should be pushed."

Shifting from co-worker to Facebook friend

It is one of the most socially awkward situations at the office.

You're talking to your boss or co-worker, when they casually ask to be your friend on Facebook.

You quickly think of the juicy comments posted on your wall, or that photo of you gulping margaritas in a bathing suit. Within seconds, you have to decide between saying 'yes' or finding a way to decline the offer without hurting anyone's feelings (or your chance at a promotion).

It has happened regularly to a 28-year-old public relations worker in Winnipeg we'll call Nathalie. She doesn't want her real name used for obvious reasons.

"Your boss doesn't need to see what you're doing on the weekend," she said.

"There are lines and there are boundaries."



Adding co-workers as Facebook friends has its issues.

Companies are starting to see value in having a presence on Web 2.0. Many have set up corporate Facebook pages and have let employees know that they can become fans — an action that can make your Facebook page more visible to co-workers.

But should you feel obliged to open your social network page to coworkers?

"It might be prudent to promote collegial relations or to curry favour with the boss by socializing with them ... but you certainly have no obligation to," said Arthur Schafer, a professor at the University of Manitoba's Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics,

Of course, even if no one at work can see your Facebook page, they can still find out what's on it. It happened earlier this year to a twenty-something woman we'll call Susan, who also doesn't want her name used.

Susan was upset with what she felt was a lack of security and cleanliness at a community event in Winnipeg. She complained about it on her Facebook page, which is only visible to her 500-odd friends.

As it turns out, one of those friends was an employee of the event's organizers, who are clients of Susan's employer. Word got around and Susan found herself facing a tongue-lashing from her boss.

It raises the question, do employers have the right to discipline workers who slag them, the company or a client in quasi-public areas such as Facebook?

"I would say not, unless it's directly damaging to the company — saying 'This product is fraudulent,' for example," said John Melnyck, who teaches management ethics at the University of Winnipeg's business faculty.

Melnyck recently conducted an experiment on that front. He asked students in one of his classes, en masse, to make him a friend on Facebook.

"It was a pretty even split of opinion," Melnyck chuckled. "Some people had no hesitation, other people said 'no way.'"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Day-Shift Nursing Position
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Community Nurses use client/patient centered goals to assess, plan, and follow through with nursing interventions, within their scope of practice, utilizing best practice guidelines, as well as evaluate outcomes. They also provide medical treatments as ordered; make referrals to community resources and collaborate with other health care professionals and providers. Attending appropriate conferences, project development meetings, advanced training and education sessions, as well, as mentoring and assisting in orientation and training of new staff is encouraged.

Location: White's Lake, Prospect, NS
Hours & Days of work: 33-35 hours per week on a Rotating schedule for Day Shifts
Travel mileage: $20 per shift **Valid driver's license and access to a reliable vehicle required*

Qualifications:
• Current diploma or degree as a Registered Nurse or Certificate of Competence as a Licensed Practical Nurse from a regulatory body.
• Community experience an asset

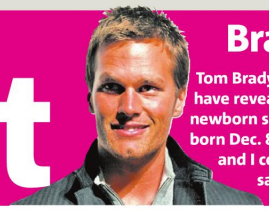
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Theron has a new collection
Actress Charlize Theron has launched a new collection of footwear to raise money for impoverished children in her native South Africa. The star debuted her eco-friendly, limited-edition footwear, designed with TOMS Shoes, on Friday. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment



Brady Bunch
Tom Brady and Giselle Bundchen have revealed the name of their newborn son. Benjamin Brady was born Dec. 8. "Benjamin is a blessing and I could not be happier," Brady said. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Albums of the decade

GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM
for Metro Canada

It was a decade that started with boy bands and Britney, and ended with Bob Dylan singing Here Comes Santa Claus.

In between, an endless stream of over-produced and under-talented Idol winners managed to keep the big record labels from drowning in a pool of self-inflicted ennui. Yet, through all of this, we managed to find some exceptionally fine music. Here are 10 records from the past 10 years you can feel good about having in your library.

1. Foo Fighters, In Your Honor (2005): A double album shows the band at its best — plugged in and acoustic. It took on the other big double rock album of the decade — Stadium Arcadium by the Red Hot Chili Peppers — and won. With a string of radio friendly rockers, this is the album that made the Foo Fighters the top band of the decade.

2. Feist, The Reminder (2007): Some critics would place Feist's debut, Let It Die, above The Reminder. But let's face it, The Reminder put Feist at a higher level. These are well-crafted songs, written with style and originality, and sung in a uniquely alluring voice.



The Foo Fighters' (frontman Dave Grohl, shown) In Your Honour is one of the albums from the last decade you should own.

3. Coldplay, A Rush of Blood to the Head (2003): This is the album that single-handedly saved EMI from disaster. The piano riff on Clocks alone makes this album a must. Coldplay started the decade a U2/Radiohead wannabe and reached 2010 well ahead of both.

4. Outkast, Speakerboxxx/The Love Below (2003): This double album's two hits — Hey Ya and The Way You Move — broke hip hop through to the mainstream pop charts. At the same time, its retro leanings toward funk and soul spelled the end to the genre as we knew it in the '80s and '90s. Melody became as important as the beat.

5. Arcade Fire, Funeral (2004): Few were aware of the innovative indie-rock collectives that were thriving in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver until David Bowie stepped on stage with Arcade Fire at a New York gig in 2005. The world seemed to look at the Canadian indie scene differently after that.

6. Amy Winehouse, Back to Black (2006): Winehouse managed to reference four decades of R&B music while still sounding original. This album sparked a British retro-fad with a flurry of young Dusty Springfields finding chart success.

7. White Stripes, Elephant (2003): Who would have thought that there was anything left to say in rock 'n' roll until Jack White came along and managed to do what others couldn't with nothing but a drum kit, a guitar and a deft hand in the studio. This album proved that less can, indeed, be more.

8. Sam Roberts, We Were Born in a Flame (2003): Two songs (Don't Walk Away Eileen and Brother Down) broke through after every major label turned them down. The three surprise Junos Sam received made us realize that there was more to Canadian rock than the Tragically Hip and Rush.

9. Kanye West, Graduation (2007): OK, he's a jerk. He's proved that. But sometimes we have to let reality pass and just listen to the music. Kanye's third album brought everything together and made his tremendous ego a little more bearable.

10. Neil Young, Live at Massey Hall 1971 (2007): This spot was going to Ryan Adams' Gold (2001), which had an impact on a new breed of songwriters, taking them back to their roots. Neil, however, is the real deal. He is their roots. And nothing had a bigger impact on young writers than this remarkable album.

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Twilight actor dons undies for Calvin Klein
Kellan Lutz is set to become the new face of Calvin Klein. The Twilight Saga: New Moon actor is reportedly being lined up to pose in his underwear for the fashion house. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Everyone's dancing to Indian pop beat

Music more common on albums of favourite artists, and also responsible for success of Desi Hits website


Jay Sean, 26-year-old British-Indian R&B celebrity, is now a worldwide success.

ELISABETH BRAW
Metro World News

Twenty years ago, Indian pop was weirdly exotic. Not so anymore. Today artists like Jay-Z and Missy Elliot sound "Indian" — and even Britney Spears has an Indian producer.

When Jay Sean burst on the music scene several years ago, he was labeled an Indian artist.

"I think of myself simply as an R&B artist," the native Londoner tells Metro.

"But just because you're Indian, people put you in a pigeonhole, and it's very hard to leave that pigeonhole."


Desi Hits founder Anjula Acharia-Bath

"I think of myself simply as an R&B artist. Just because you're Indian, people put you in a pigeonhole, and it's very hard to leave that pigeonhole."
Jay Sean

But Jay Sean — born Kamaljeet Singh Jhooti — has succeeded. His 2004 debut album sold two million copies; this year his U.S. debut single topped the Billboard Hot 100.

Slumdog Millionaire showed that Indian pop culture has crossover appeal. So does the Internet website Desi Hits (desihits.com), which has risen to prominence along with Jay Sean.

"Slumdog has had a huge impact on people's interest in Indian pop and rock, especially since music played such an important role in it," says Desi Hits founder Anjula Acharia-Bath.

"So many artists, like M.I.A., Timbaland and the Black-Eyed Peas use Indian music, but people didn't know it was Indian until they watched Slumdog."

Acharia-Bath, a young British woman of Indian origin, founded Desi Hits after moving to the U.S. several years ago, and has fast become an entertainment power-broker known for making matches between A-list fashion producers, musicians, actors and artists.

Desi Hits now has 1.2 million unique visitors per month, a 300-per-cent increase from one year ago.

Today Jay Sean lives in New York, but he often visits his parents' home region of Punjab.

"India has all these musical events going on," he says.

"But the mainstream media doesn't cover them. There are lots of great festivals with 80,000 kids listening to a concert, but nobody outside India hears about it.

"The funny thing is, the music isn't that different," he said.

Up-and-coming music of Indian origin

- Kazz Kumar (kazzkumar.com): The first lady of the Sona Family group has decided to go solo and revamp her image. She is very Lady Gaga-like in her sound and look.
- Imran Khan (imrankhanworld.com): His debut album Unforgettable was the biggest selling urban Desi Hits album of the year.
- Jaya (jayaworld.com): Just signed to All Around the World, a sub-label of Universal Records. Releasing her first single Dj Do It Again soon.



Box office

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres, according to The Associated Press:

1. **Avatar:** $73 million US
2. **The Princess and the Frog:** $12.2 million
3. **The Blind Side:** $10 million
4. **Did You Hear About the Morgans:** $7 million
5. **The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** $4.4 million
6. **Invictus:** $4.2 million
7. **Disney's A Christmas Carol:** $3.4 million
8. **Up in the Air:** $3.1 million
9. **Brothers:** $2.6 million
10. **Old Dogs:** $2.3 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


Maci Bookout, 17, stars with her son Bentley on MTV's new reality show Teen Mom.

Guts and glory behind Teen Mom

TELEVSION Amber Portwood's lunch with a friend keeps getting interrupted by a crying baby. The problem is, the baby is Amber's. She packs up and leaves the restaurant before she can finish eating.

Quieting a fussy baby is all in a day's work for the 19-year-old and her co-stars on MTV's new reality show, Teen Mom (airing Tuesday nights). The show premiered to the highest rated series on the network in more than a year.

The girls on the show aren't strangers to cameras — they were also on MTV's 16 and Pregnant, which aired last summer. Teen Mom revisits the young mothers several months after giving birth.

"I really just wanted to show girls how hard it was to be a teen parent," says Maci Bookout, 17, of her decision to let her experience be filmed for TV.

Bookout was a popular high-school student with good grades and plans to go to college.

"I wanted girls who might get pregnant to see there are options out there to move forward with your life and still have goals," says Bookout, who plans to marry her baby's father and would like to have another child.

Not all the young women on Teen Mom chose to keep their babies. Catelynn Lowell, 17, for example, gave her daughter up for adoption last May.

"It was difficult because that's my daughter. . . . I knew in my heart it was the best (decision) so I just went forward with it," she says. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trump files for divorce
Ivana Trump was hoping the fourth time would be the charm when it comes to marriage. No such luck. The socialite and former Mrs. Donald filed for divorce Friday from Italian guy Tossano Rubicondi, citing their busy schedules and time apart. **POPEATER.COM**



A journey of uncertainty



Pilgrims

Author: Garrison Keillor
Publisher: Faber & Faber
Price: $24 (Paperback)

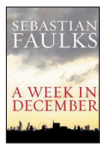
SET IN LAKE Wobegon, the town noted American radio personality Garrison Keillor put on the map in his past works Lake Wobegon Days and Lake Wobegon Summer 1956, Pilgrims arrives at a point of uncertainty in Margie and Carl Krebsbach's relationship. In her attempt to conquer their sexual drought, Margie plans a trip to Rome under the pretense of tidying the unkempt grave of a local boy who died there during the city's 1944 liberation. But her travel plans are grounded when a host of colourful locals warm to the idea and want to tag along, foiling her chances for the personal connection she wanted.



A Good Fall

Author: Ha Jin
Publisher: Pantheon
Price: $29.95 (Hardcover)

IN HIS LATEST collection of stories, Chinese author Ha Jin enters the immigrant experience, focusing on Chinese characters in America and their feelings of being torn between two national identities. Children as Enemies follows young people inclined to change their names to appear more "American", to the upset of their grandfather. Immigrants unable to bring their husbands or wives to America are central to In Temporary Love, a story that explores the connection of the divided. Jin's stories are told with precision and passion, presenting stories that hone in on intimate feelings and distress.



A Week in December

Author: Sebastian Faulks
Publisher: Hutchinson
Price: $34.95 (Hardcover)

BRITISH WRITER Sebastian Faulks tries to decongest metropolitan English life in his latest novel, A Week in December. The story is made even more critical by its air of "faction," a work masking real characters and events with fiction. The comical book unfolds during one week in December 2007, and follows a party planning by an MP and his wife. The invited guests — who include high finance heads, a journalist and a football player — bring their stories to the pages. They tie together themes like greed and religious fundamentalism, contrasted with the global financial crisis.

Brian Coulton/for Metro Canada

BookPicks

Entertainment in brief

FILM Captain EO is moonwalking back to Disneyland. The theme park announced plans Friday to bring back the 3-D sci-fi film starring Michael Jackson next February, over 23 years after the attraction debuted in Anaheim, Calif. The 17-minute film starred the late King of Pop as a singing-and-dancing intergalactic commander. It was directed by Francis Ford Coppola and executive produced by George Lucas.

LEGAL Rapper Lil Wayne and 11 people travelling with him were briefly detained Friday night after U.S. Border Patrol officers found marijuana on two of his tour buses, authorities said. Lil Wayne, whose real name is Dwayne Carter, and the others were questioned and released, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the case was referred to the Brooks County Sheriff's Office.

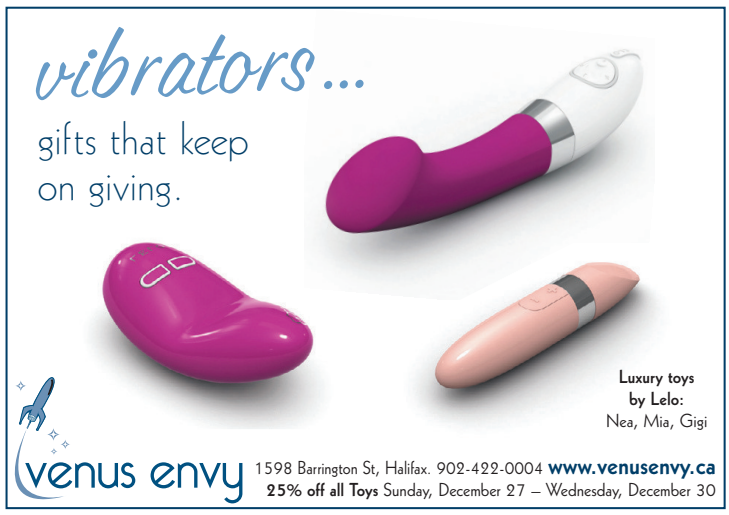
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's**Style**



Kenya Hunt
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HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/21/09	31	31	31 ABC	News Center 5	World News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	I Want a Dog for Christmas		Find My Family (N)		Castle
	7	7	7 ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Rita MacNeil's Cape Breton		Gossip Girl (HDTV)		Atlantis
	11	11	11 CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Just for Laughs (N)		The Hour Holiday Special (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	2	2	2 CBC-F	Pyramide (SC)	La force	Martin sur la route (N) (SC)		Le Moment de vérité (SC)		Le Grand Rire 2009		Le Téléjournal
	32	32	32 CBS	WBZ News (N)	Evening News	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	How I Met	Accidentally	Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	CSI: Miami
	69	69	69 CFTM	TVA nouvelles	*Madame Doubtfire* ★★★ (1993, Comédie) (HDTV) Robin Williams, Sally Field.					Thibert-Noël		TVA nouvelles
	6	6	6 CIHF	Entertainment	ET Canada	Holmes in New Orleans		House "Epic Fail"		Lie to Me (HDTV)		News Final (N)
	9	9	9 CJCH	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		*Paradise City: Degrassi Goes Hollywood* (2009) (DVS)				Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	CTV News
primetime	10	10	10 ELTV	Face to Face	Fishing	Community Matters						
	36	36	36 FOX	Seinfeld	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House "Epic Fail"		Lie to Me (HDTV)		Fox First
	12	12	12 NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Access H.	Extra (N)	The Sing-Off "The Finale" The winning group is revealed.				Jay Leno Show
	29	29	29 NW	(6) Power & Politics		Connect Today's biggest stories. (N)				CBC News: The National		JK Rowling
	4	4	4 PBS-B	PBS NewsHour (N)		Greater Boston	Chronicles	Antiques Roadshow (N)		The Young Victoria		Saint Gaudens
	35	35	35 PBS-D	PBS NewsHour (N)		Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	Antiques Roadshow (N)		Model Ts to War		People-Frank
	68	68	68 TQS	Guerre clans	Mariages	Catherine (SC)	Rire et délire	*En attendant l'âme soeur* (2006, Drame) Jaime Ray Newman.				Guerre clans
news	23	96	96 BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call Tonight		MoneyTalk	Market Call	Squeeze Play		Business News
	18	18	18 CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer		CNN Tonight (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Cooper 360
sports	54	54	54 GOLF	Golf Central	Top 10 (HDTV)	Top 10 (HDTV)	Top 10 (HDTV)	Top 10 (HDTV)	Top 10 (HDTV)	Top 10 (HDTV)	Top 10 (HDTV)	Top 10 (HDTV)
	52	52	52 RSE	Connected W-Prime Time		Overtime	NHL Hockey Boston Bruins at Ottawa Senators. (HDTV) (Live)					Sportsnet Con.
	55	55	55 SCOR	HSR	Covers Experts	RaceNight				(10:15) WWE Monday Night RAW		
	45	45	45 SPD	Unique Whips		Pass Time	Pass Time	SuperCars	SuperCars	Barrett-Jackson		Auctions
	53	53	53 TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	Monday Night Countdown			NFL Football New York Giants at Washington Redskins.		
family	43	43	43 FAM	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School
	44	44	44 TOON	*Bah, Humduck! Looney Tunes*		*Jack Frost* ★★ (1998, Fantasy) Michael Keaton.				Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad
	26	26	26 TREE	Barbie in The Nutcracker			Bob the Builder: Snowed		Night Garden	Little Bear	Max & Ruby	Christmas
	27	27	27 YTV	*Merry Christmas, Drake & Josh* (2008, Comedy)				*Scrooged* ★★★ (1988, Comedy) Bill Murray.				Family Biz
cable variety	16	16	16 A&E	Intervention "Anthony"		Intervention "Laney"		Intervention "John C."		Intervention "Rob" (N)		Hoarders
	70	70	70 APTN	APTN National News (N)		Gilles Sioui Sur Six Cordes		Notre Peuple "Bal de Neige"		*Chasseurs de loups, chasseurs d'or* (1994)		
	50	50	50 BET	Frankie-Neffe	Frankie-Neffe	Frankie-Neffe	Frankie-Neffe	*ATL* ★★ (2006, Comedy-Drama) Tip Harris, Lauren London.				
	37	37	37 BRVO	Wind at My Back		The Carol Project		Johnny Cash Christmas		Yo-Yo Ma-Making of Songs of Joy & Peace		
	25	25	25 CMT	All Through the Night		Amer. Funniest Home Videos		*Snow 2 Brain Freeze* (2008, Comedy) Tom Cavanagh.				Home Improve.
	49	49	49 COM	Just for Laughs		Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	22 Minutes	The Simpsons	South Park	TBA
	153	153	153 COURT	W-FIVE		Situation Critical		Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Missing Link		Critical
	38	38	38 DISC	Canada's Worst Driver		Daily Planet (N)		MythBusters		Dirty Jobs "Tofu Maker" (N)		Man vs. Wild
	34	48	48 HGTV	Extreme Makeover: Home		House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Income Prop.	House Poor (N)	My First Place	House Hunters
	46	46	46 HIST	Convoy: War of the Atlantic		Convoy: War of the Atlantic		Patton 360		Battles BC		Nostradamus
	17	17	17 MM	Secret Life of American Teen		Secret Life of American Teen		House	Selena Gomez	So You Think You Can Dance		Dance
	19	19	19 MMM	Sex Rehab With Dr. Drew		The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Fabulous Life Of...		Entourage
	201	201	201 M1	(7:15) *Confessions of a Shopaholic* (2009, Comedy)				Sanctuary "The Five"		Dexter (HDTV)		Californication
	48	23	23 OLN	Mantracker		Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Ghost Hunters
	51	51	51 PEACH	The Office	Name Is Earl	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: SVU		*Getting Played*
	206	206	206 PIX	(6:25) *Rat Race* ★★ (2001, Comedy)			(8:20) *The Fall* ★ (1998, Suspense)			*The Mask of Zorro* (1998, Adventure)		
	67	67	67 RDI	RDI monde	RDI économie	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI économie
	39	39	39 SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	The Outer Limits		*His and Her Christmas* (2005, Comedy-Drama)				Bones
	40	40	40 SLICE	Skin Deep	Skin Deep	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Last 10	Last 10	Instant Beauty Pageant		Plastic Makes
	47	47	47 SPACE	Stargate SG-1		Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		*Sea Ghost* (2004, Horror) (DVS)		
	14	14	14 SPIKE	*Forrest Gump* ★★★ (1994, Drama) Tom Hanks, Robin Wright, Gary Sinise.						*Forrest Gump* ★★★ (1994, Drama)		
	57	98	98 STAR	etalk (N)	TMZ (N)	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		The View (HDTV) (N)		Dr. Oz Show
	21	21	21 TLC	Little People	Little People	Little People	Little People	Little People	Little People	Little Chocolatiers (N)		Choc. Champ
	56	34	34 TROP	Carlawood	Carlawood	Raymond	Raymond	The Outer Limits		ET Canada	Comeback	Family Guy
	20	20	20 TV5	Que.-champion	Journal de Fr2	La Vie est un cirque		Petits meurtres en famille			Coco Chanel	
	28	28	28 V	Doc "The Way We Were"		Murder, She Wrote		My Husband	No Place Like	*Miracle of the Heart* (2005, Drama)		
	60	97	97 VIVA	Da Vinci's Inquest		Cold Case		Missing "Last Night"		The Closer		Cold Case
	22	22	22 W	Maxed Out	Grocery Bag	*Borrowed Hearts* (1997, Drama) Roma Downey.				*Eve's Christmas* (2004, Comedy-Drama)		
	251	251	251 WGN	WGN Evening News		Two/Half Men	Family Guy	One Tree Hill (HDTV)		Gossip Girl (HDTV)		WGN News

critics'corner

Paradise City: Degrassi Goes Hollywood
Kevin Smith ("Clerks") channels his inner"Degrassi" fan in a big way in this 2009 TV movie, in which his filmmaking partner Jason Mewes is casting a "High School Musical"-type movie based on his own teen years. When Kevin recommends Manny Santos (Cassie Steele) for the lead, the "Degrassi" gang hits the road for Hollywood and a reunion with Paige (Lauren Collins), who's also up for the part. 8 PM on CJCH



The Hour Holiday Special
Running out of holiday spirit? This tuneful special might provide a refill. Hosted by George Stroumboulopoulos, it features performances by Michael Buble, Our Lady Peace, Metric with the choir Carol of the Bells, Jim Cuddy and Greg Keelor of Blue Rodeo, Kathleen Edwards, and Anvil, among others. 9 PM on CBC

Yo-Yo Ma: The Making of Songs of Joy & Peace
Yo-Yo Ma assembles an eclectic gathering of fellow musical artists for this intimate special, in which they share songs with the common themes of peace and joy — two things the world can always use, and not just during the holiday season. Joining the famed cellist are James Taylor, Diana Krall, Alison Krauss, Chris Botti, Renee Fleming and Dave Brubeck. 10 PM on BRAVO



Knowles' parents file for divorce

Tina Knowles filed for divorce from Mathew Knowles in November, a source close to the showbiz family confirms to usmagazine.com recently. The parents to Beyonce and Solange Knowles have been married for 29 years. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Pattinson and Stewart spotted in Venice Beach

DINING OUT Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart failed to go unnoticed recently when they headed out to enjoy a nice dinner together in Los Angeles' Venice Beach neighborhood.

"It looked like they were on a nice stroll through the neighborhood," a source tells E! News. "They seemed really just into hanging together. They weren't holding hands, but were really sweet with each other."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Jonas brother Kevin gets hitched at swanky estate

ISN'T THAT SWEET? In a setting fit for a Disney prince and his princess, Kevin Jonas married Danielle Deleasa Saturday night at Oheka Castle, a turn-of-the-century French-style chateau, on a sprawling estate in Long Island, people.com reports.

"We're so happy that we're finally married and we were able to share the special moment with family, friends and loved ones," the couple tells People.

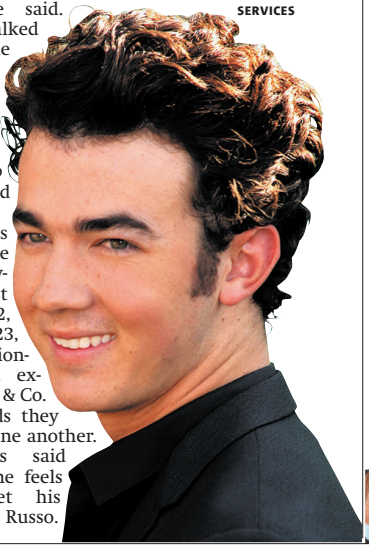
Though a blizzard threatened the festivities, the wedding attended by 400 family members and friends, including Demi Lovato, went forward as scheduled.

"The snow only made it look more like a winter wonderland," said Michael Russo, a celebrity event planner of Roses-n-Lollipops, who for Saturday's event created a fairy-tale forest under heated white tents, complete with 14-foot trees draped in hydrangeas and crystals made to look like icicles.

"Danielle looked like a princess," he said. When she walked down the aisle in her strapless tulle and Chantilly lace Vera Wang gown, "Kevin couldn't stop smiling," said Russo.

With his brothers, Joe and Nick serving as his best men, Kevin, 22, and Danielle, 23, recited traditional vows and exchanged Jacob & Co. wedding bands they designed for one another.

"Kevin has said many times he feels like he met his princess," says Russo. "To see them together you can feel the warmth and the love all around them. They are just perfect for each other." METRO NEWS SERVICES



Michael Lohan wants better pals for Lindsay

BECAUSE HE HAS SET SUCH A STELLAR EXAMPLE Michael Lohan hopes that a higher class of friends is just the thing daughter Lindsay Lohan needs to keep her on the straight and narrow. So Lindsay being spotted last week at the same party as Leonardo DiCaprio is a good thing, he tells Hollyscoop.

"They have been friends for years," Michael says. "Mark Wahlberg, Robert Downey Jr., Leonardo DiCaprio and a few others. I think they have a lot of positive things to offer."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Celebrity tweets

Stan Lee likes to brag, Jordin Sparks is not enjoying winter, Joel McHale gives you detailed updates, and Russell Simmons is aiming higher.

- @smilinstanlee So far I've taken pix with 3 presidents, Clinton, Reagan and Bush. I often wonder how this country could ever have run without me.
- @TheRealJordin I hate the cold. And I have a cold. Ha. A cold in the cold. Great. Soup time!
- @joelmchale There's a woman placing Korean food in front of me right now.
- @UncleRUSH Yogis believe the ultimate payoff "heaven"can be realized on earth. This enlightenment is your birthrite .

METRO WORLD NEWS



Water park upsets neighbours

HER PARK WILL GO ON Celine Dion has upset neighbours over plans to build a water park in her home, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The 41-year-old singer has reportedly enraged local residents who are less than impressed with her vision for the new addition to her $12.5 million property.

A source said: "There will be two giant pools, several waterslides and a lazy river, much like an amusement park." While Dion's eight-year-old son Rene-Charles and the rest of her extended family might be happy, some of the neighbours have made it quite clear they're not happy with her plans.

A local resident told the National Enquirer magazine: "It's totally distasteful and demeans the whole area."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Divorce papers filed

SPLITSVILLE Three months after announcing their separation, Deane Sheremet has filed for divorce from country star LeAnn Rimes, according to Los Angeles court papers people.com reports. Sheremet cites "irreconcilable differences" for the end of their nearly eight-year marriage, which crumbled when Rimes began a relationship with actor Eddie Cibrian, who also was married at the time to Brandi Glanville (Cibrian and Glanville are also divorcing.)

Sheremet, 29, is seeking spousal support from Rimes, 27, and wants her to pay the attorney fees, according to the papers, which were filed Thursday in Superior Court. The pair have no children.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Jacko tribute scrapped

ONCE AGAIN Jermaine Jackson's global tribute to his late brother Michael has been scrapped for the second time, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Organizers at World Awards Media, led by the King of Pop's older brother, cancelled a Vienna, Austri, concert in September after struggling to secure stars to perform at the event. The show was rescheduled for London next summer.

The latter concert appeared to be in trouble after an executive decision to dissolve the company behind the project was made last month. Martin Schneider, liquidator for the organizers, said: "The company cannot sign any new contracts and will certainly not plan any new events."

Now Jermaine Jackson has declined to forge ahead with the show, which was to initially feature Mary J. Blige, Chris Brown and veteran singer Natalie Cole.

METRO WORLD NEWS



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- Halifax Citadel National Historic Site
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- Hamachi Steakhouse Bar & Grill
- MacAskill's Waterfront Warehouse
- Moxie's Classic Grill
- Ryan Duffy's
- Saege Bistro
- Saint Mary's University
- Stories
- Taj Mahal
- The Halifax Club

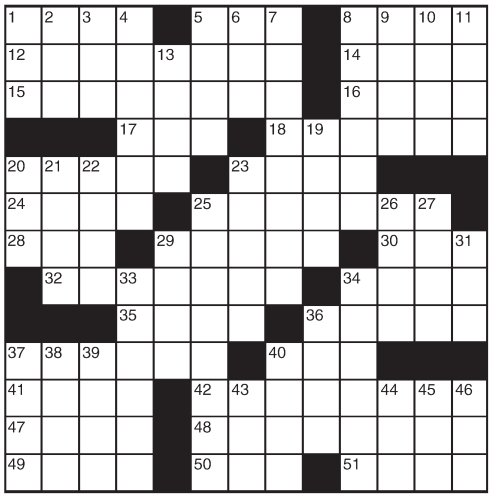
Visit: www.blinddatewithastar.ca for more event information!

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Take Five



ACROSS

1 Pinza of "South Pacific"
5 "Give — break!"
8 Dweeby type
12 "The View" co-host
14 Old Italian money
15 Source of great wealth
16 Press
17 — Bon Jovi
18 Most recent
20 For a specific purpose
23 Platter
24 Nitwit
25 Tennessee city
28 Right angle
29 Funnyman Jerry
30 Medic, familiarly
32 Compose in print
34 Medal earner
35 Wan
36 Substantial
37 Where originally located
40 Motorists' org.
41 Crucifix
42 Yukon event
47 African antelope
48 Report-card sticker, maybe
49 Break suddenly
50 Computer file suffix
51 Danson et al.

DOWN

1 Early bird?
2 Menagerie
3 Under the weather
4 Goldfinger ally
5 Chicken chow —
6 Compass point suffix
7 "18 or older" provision
8 Snafu
9 Ireland
10 Greek Cupid
11 Philosopher Immanuel
13 University VIP
19 Poisonous snakes
20 Mr. Lincoln
21 Foolish one
22 Sacred
23 One of Donald Duck's nephews
25 Crazy, in Yiddish
26 Concept
27 Kind
29 For fear that
31 Coquettish
33 Settled a debt
34 "Citizen Kane" inspiration
36 Anti-DUI org.
37 Annoys
38 Verb counterpart
39 Carbonated drink
40 "— Well That Ends Well"
43 "Alley- —!"
44 Multipurpose truck
45 Despondent
46 Day fractions (Abbr.)

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		3				8		
		6	9		4	7		
9				2				1
	8	9	6		2	1	7	
	7	2	5		1	3	4	
8				7				2
		7	3		9	5		
		1				6		

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

A	B	S	■	C	L	A	W	■
D	A	Y	■	O	A	T	H	■
S	Y	N	O	N	Y	M	Y	■
■	■	D	Y	E	S	■	■	A
A	C	R	E	S	■	M	I	C
B	O	O	R	■	S	I	G	H
L	A	M	■	C	A	N	O	E
E	X	E	C	U	T	O	R	■
■	■	■	U	S	E	R	■	■
R	O	A	R	S	■	■	S	T
A	V	I	V	■	S	Y	N	O
M	A	D	E	■	H	E	I	R
S	L	E	D	■	E	S	P	Y

R	O	M	E	■	■	■	■	■
E	V	I	L	■	■	■	■	■
H	E	M	S	■	■	■	■	■
A	E	R	I	E	■	■	■	■
■	M	I	C	A	■	■	■	■
S	I	G	H	T	S	E	E	■
Y	M	A	■	■	■	■	■	■
K	N	I	T	■	■	■	■	■
S	E	A	T	S	■	■	■	■
T	E	P	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	I	S	■	■	■	■	■	■
E	L	K	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	L	Y	■	■	■	■	■	■

2	5	4	3	9	1	6	7	8
6	1	8	4	7	5	2	3	9
7	9	3	2	8	6	4	1	5
1	2	6	9	4	3	8	5	7
8	3	5	7	1	2	9	4	6
4	7	9	6	5	8	3	2	1
3	6	7	5	2	9	1	8	4
5	8	2	1	6	4	7	9	3
9	4	1	8	3	7	5	6	2

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day



Baked Rosemary Monkfish

INGREDIENTS:

1 Tbsp (15 mL) olive oil
Two 1/2 lb (250 g) monkfish fillets (membrane removed)
2 garlic cloves, quartered
2 fresh rosemary sprigs, broken up
1 lime
2 Tbsp (25 mL) butter
4 tomatoes, halved

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C). Cut two pieces of foil, each large enough to enclose a piece of monkfish. Brush foil with a little oil.
2. Put one monkfish fillet on each piece of foil. Make small slits all over fish. Push garlic pieces and rosemary sprigs into slits.
3. Grate lime zest over fish. Trim off lime ends, then cut into four thick slices. Squeeze some drops of lime juice over fish, then lay slices on top of fillets. Dot with butter and season to taste.
4. Put tomatoes, cut side up, alongside fish. Fold up foil to enclose fish and tomatoes and seal edges.
5. Put parcels on baking tray and bake 10 minutes. Open foil and bake until fish is opaque and cooked through. Test with point of knife. Cut each piece of fish in half and transfer to plates with tomatoes. Pour over juices from parcels and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**


Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You will totally disagree with what you are told today. You can't take seriously something that is so outrageous.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
According to the planets you are expecting too much of yourself and must adjust your ambitions to a more reasonable level.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Don't waste time on petty arguments. You should be channeling your energy in productive directions, not debating issues of no real importance.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You will have to make some kind of financial adjustment over the next 24 hours, most likely because you have bitten off more than you can chew.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
If you embellish the truth in any way, shape or form you will almost certainly be found out – and that could be embarrassing later in the week.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Try not to provoke an argument or confrontation today because it is unlikely to go in your favor.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Is something you thought was as real as it comes an illusion after all? That is the question you will be asking yourself today.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Listen to what others have to tell you today but don't think you have to think or do as they say.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
With Jupiter, your ruler, aspecting Neptune, planet of illusion, today you will find it hard to make up your mind about what you should be doing.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You will have some wonderful ideas and insights as the new week begins but don't be too eager to put them to the test because this is a time for thinking.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Cosmic activity in and around your birth sign means there will be so much going on in your world that you find it hard to get your head around it.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Try not to take your doubts and fears too seriously – they are no more than negative manifestations of your over-active imagination.

TAKE A BREAK FROM WORK
Visit metronews.ca to watch
metrotube of the day



This day in history

1913: Arthur Wynne's "word-cross", the first crossword puzzle, is published in the New York World.
1937: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, the first full-length animated film ever, premieres at the Carthay Circle Theater.
1958: French presidential election: Charles de Gaulle is elected President of France as his Union des Démocrates pour la République party gain 78.5% of the vote.
1968: Apollo program: Apollo 8, the first manned mission to the moon, is launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
1969: The Gay Activists Alliance is formed in New York City.

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GRADUATE REBATE PROGRAM

™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trade marks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp., and used under licence. ♦Prices for models shown: 2009 Elantra Limited is $20,295/2010 Accent 3 DR GL Sport 5-speed is $16,999/2010 Sonata V6 Limited is $29,499/2010 Santa Fe Limited is $35,799. Delivery and Destination charges of $1,495 for 2009 Elantra/$1,495 for 2010 Accent/$1,565 for 2010 Sonata/$1,760 for 2010 Santa Fe, registration, insurance, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ◊Purchase financing available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services on 2009 Elantra /2010 Accent 3Dr/2010 Sonata/2010 Santa Fe models with a finance rate of 0%/0%/0%/0% for 36/60/36/48 month terms. Financing example: 2009 Elantra L 5-speed for $11,995 at 0% per annum equals $375 per month for 36 months for a total obligation of $13,490. Starting price is $11,995. Example price includes Delivery & Destination of $1,495. Example price excludes registration, insurance, licence fees and all applicable taxes. **Leasing offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2009 Elantra L 5-speed/2010 Accent 3 Dr L 5-speed/2010 Sonata GL 5-speed/2010 Santa Fe 2.4L GL 6-speed with an annual lease rate of 3.75%/0%/8.61%/2.0%. Monthly payment is $192/$178/$309/$337 per month for a 60/60/60/60 month walk-away lease. Down Payment of $0/$0/$0/$0 and first monthly payment required. Total lease obligation is $11,520/$10,680/$18,540/$22,220. Lease offer includes Delivery and Destination of $1,495/$1,495/$1,565/$1,760. Applicable license fees, insurance, registration, PPSA ($45), and taxes are excluded. $0 security deposit on all models. 20,000 km allowance per year applies. Additional charge of $0.10/km. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ♦◊**Offers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ▼The XM name and logos are registered trademarks of XM Satellite Radio Inc. iPod® is a registered trademark of Apple Inc. Bluetooth® word mark and logos are registered trademarks owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc., and any use of such marks by Hyundai is under license. ‡You may qualify for an additional incentive if you turn in your 1995 model year and older vehicle and participate in the national Retire Your Ride program, funded by the Government of Canada. To qualify, your vehicle must be 1995 model year or older, in running condition and fully registered and insured in the participant's province for the last 6 consecutive months. Upon confirmation of eligibility for the Retire Your Ride program, Hyundai Auto Canada will provide additional Clean Air Cash that must be applied to the purchase of a new Hyundai vehicle in the amount of ($500 - 2009 Accent / $500 - 2009 Elantra sedan / $500 - 2009 Elantra Touring / $500 - 2009 Sonata / $500 - 2009 Tucson / $500 - 2009 Santa Fe / $1,000 - 2009 Genesis Sedan / $1,000 - 2009 Veracruz / $1,000 - 2009 Azera / $500 - 2010 Accent / $500 - 2010 Elantra sedan / $500 - 2010 Elantra Touring / $500 - 2010 Genesis Coupe / $500 - 2010 Sonata / $1,000 - 2010 Sonata / $1,000 - 2010 Veracruz). Clean Air Cash will be applied to reduce the after-tax purchase price of your new Hyundai vehicle. By participating in this program you will not be eligible for any trade-in value for your old vehicle. For more information about the Retire Your Ride Program visit www.retireyourride.ca. Some conditions apply, see dealer for details. ΔSee your dealer for eligible vehicles and full details of the Graduate Rebate Program. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.